Former senator says Senate a dead institution

Story on PAGE A5

One in 3 Filipinos uses cell phones, says survey

By Martin P. Marfil

ONE in three Filipinos uses mobile phones, including the poor, a nationwide survey on cellular phone use released yesterday showed.

Pulse Asia said at least 34 percent of the 80 million Filipinos use cell phones, with 63 percent of the upper to upper-middle classes now owning the

ONE IN 3/A14

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IN *Saturday* SPECIAL

- Secret of Jolina's success/G3
- Hollywood tribute to Gregory Peck/E1
- Secret getaways/J1

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Barbers pins down Ping

Senate report asks DOJ to probe Lacson for high crimes

By Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG ally Sen. Robert Barbers said yesterday he was convinced that oppositionist Sen. Panfilo Lacson had been involved in the proliferation of illegal drugs in the country. And he said he was not alone in thinking so.

He emphasized that Senate Committee Report No. 66 was also approved by Senators Joker Arroyo and Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chairpersons of the Senate blue ribbon and national defense committees, respectively. Barbers chairs the committee on public order and illegal drugs, which joined the inquiry.

"All three of us are convinced that Lacson is criminally liable for these crimes. The report is not just mine," said Barbers.

"Not only that, majority of the senators supported the report," said Barbers, who volunteered his services to President Macapagal-Arroyo in the new war on drugs.

The report recommends that the Department of Justice "pursue the investigation of Lacson and other police officers" for high crimes such as drug trafficking and kidnapping-for-ransom, Barbers said.

The report could have been taken up by the Senate in a plenary session before it adjourned on June 6 were it not for the absence of Lacson and other opposition senators.

Lacson, who arrived yesterday from the United States, said he supports the Macapagal administration's renewed campaign against illegal drugs, but cautioned the Palace against using it for political reasons.

He chided military intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus for using the new anti-drug drive "in his attempt to once again implicate (me) in illegal drug activities after failing the first time around."

Lacson said the government was injecting politics into its newest campaign.

"They are using the issue for po-

BARBERS/A15

ERIK ARAZAS

TEACHER'S PET. Herself a former teacher, President Macapagal visits on Friday students of the Batasan Hills National High School, one of the schools to benefit from the President's school rehabilitation program. The school that can accommodate only a thousand lacks classrooms for its over 9,000 students today. The Senate Electoral Tribunal has made available its vacant rooms for 400 students. *See story on Page A2.*

BACK TO SCHOOL, AND HOW. There's always room for one more (above). To make it on time for school in San Fabian, Pangasinan, the tricycle driver doesn't mind the overcrowding. Neither do his passengers, who appear delighted. (Right) No, it isn't moving day in Damortis, La Union, but children bringing their own chairs to school.

PHOTOS BY TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Ebdane admits he'll miss target

By Christian V. Esguerra

DON'T count on miracles.

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, chief of the Philippine National Police, conceded Thursday that he would not be able to meet President Macapagal-Arroyo's one-year ultimatum for him to finish off 20 kidnap-for-ransom (KFR) syndicates. The deadline is on July 21.

"I cannot perform miracles, but I have done my best," he said in a speech at the PNP Night sponsored by the Manila Overseas Press Club at the Manila Hotel.

As though to preempt a scolding from the President, Ebdane focused on the PNP's accomplishments during the forum.

He said as many as 15 syndicates had been busted since Ms Macapagal declared an all-out war on kidnapping last year.

The five syndicates still active are the Hermano/Rementera, Fernandez, Bucala, Pentagon and Abu Suffia gangs, which, Ebdane said, had expanded into subgroups.

But five members of the Hermano/Pementera gang were arrested in Taguig last week, he said.

"To ensure that the gains we

EBDANE/A14

No Vatican ruling yet on Bacani case, says Church

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE VATICAN has yet to decide on the "very complex case" involving Novaliches Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr.

With this pronouncement, Fr. James Reuter, information officer of the Apostolic Nuncio in Manila, dismissed reports that Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco had brought back the Vatican's decision on the complaint of sexual misconduct filed against Bacani by his ex-secretary.

Reuter further said that the Apostolic Nunciature would not have kept quiet this long if Pope John Paul II had already decided on the complaint.

Bacani remains bishop of the

NO VATICAN/A15

LTO drug tests practically useless, say experts

'Samson test' for drug users

By Anna York P. Bondoc, MD
Contributor

THOSE who have something to hide from drug tests will find the following information positively hair-raising.

Science can recover drug traces, not only from urine and blood, but also from hair. In fact, hair testing has been in use for the last 25 years. "It can be

SAMSON/A15

WOW, PARE... WOW! BUHOK PALA NG ADIK 'TO KAYA TAYO NA HA-HIGH

By Tessa Salazar

DRUG testing is useless if it's not done right, doctors and chemists say. If anecdotal evidence and this reporter's experience is any guide, the controversial drug tests at the LTO may in fact be less than useful.

Experts reached by the INQUIRER say there is a problem with the Land Transportation Office's drug testing. That problem lies in the equipment and the personnel handling the equipment.

For instance: I waited only 15 minutes to get my urine test results from one of the four accredited drug-testing centers in front of the LTO branch in Tayuman, Manila.

Inside one of these centers, there wasn't much of a laboratory, save for two computers, some medical equipment, a medical technologist and three of her staff. A framed medical technology diploma hung on a wall. I was asked to produce my driver's license, fill out basic information, and pay P300. A transparent plastic cup with my name on it was handed to me. Inside the toilet were pails brimming with water. Detergent soaps and bleaching agents were all around.

But doctors and chemists say the mere addition of water will dilute a sample and render it negative. Addition of masking agents such as nitrites can also "confuse" the screening test.

My drug report, signed by the licensed

LTO/A15

Tatad: Erap attack on PDI ruined him

By Jerry Esplanada

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada's "war with the INQUIRER" ultimately ruined the former leader, according to Puwersa ng Masa stalwart and ex-Sen. Francisco Tatad.

In Hard Facts for Hard Times, Tatad wrote that Estrada "must have thought his popularity would sustain him against the INQUIRER" during his 31-month term.

"But no politician since (the late British Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin) had ever succeeded in bringing down a newspaper ... More often than not, it was the politician who gave in," noted the avid Estrada supporter.

Hard Facts for Hard Times is an abridged edition of Tatad's 658-page bestseller "A Nation on Fire: The Unmaking of Joseph Estrada and the Remaking of Democracy in the Philippines."

Tatad, former newsman and information minister for a little over 10 years during the Marcos regime, claimed "one short volley from the President drew sustained bombardment from the (INQUIRER)."

"Some of his old friends in the movie industry decided to help by canceling all their ads in the paper. But the boycott only made the paper the hottest commodity in town," Tatad pointed out.

All told, Tatad wrote, "the INQUIRER devoted more front-page, editorial, column and cartoon attacks on Estrada than all the other dailies combined. No other paper did as much to detail allegations of official corruption."

Tatad, now chair of the Puwersa ng Masa advisory council, recalled that "with the media, Estrada was irrepressible." He never said "no comment" or "off the record" or gave purely background information.

He did not mind reporters thrusting

TATAD/A4

My brother stole my name, man tells court

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The case of Victorino de Vera is baffling lawyers here. The 64-year-old retired plant mechanic wants a local court to restore his identity which was assumed for 25 years by his younger brother Valeriano, who is now dead.

And to make this story even more perplexing, Victorino is claiming that he learned of his brother's misdeed only 13 years after Valeriano had died.

The complex story began in the 1960s when Valeriano joined the US Navy using the name of Victorino.

Victorino recounted that he

MY/A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/06/21/03

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Second FRONTPAGE

MILF asks: What terror links?

'Bait for Hashim'

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE GOVERNMENT wants to determine if Salamat Hashim is still alive, indisposed or still in charge of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, when it demanded that Salamat should head the MILF panel in peace talks with them, according to Sen. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday

"It's a bait," Biazon said in an interview. He believes this was a "good strategy" on the part of the government, as "it can determine whether it was negotiating with the MILF leadership which has control over the organization."

This, he said, was "important," especially since the MILF leadership has denied that the rebel group has anything to do with the series of terrorist attacks in Mindanao in recent months.

Biazon also said he supports calls for the government to suspend the court cases against Salamat and grant him a safe conduct pass to pave the way for the MILF chief to head the MILF panel in the peace talks.

The senator said that when he headed the Senate committee on peace, unification and reconciliation, he made such proposal for the government to open talks with leaders of the RAM, Moro Islamic Liberation Front and Communist Party of the Philippines. He said that former President Fidel Ramos approved his proposal, paving the way for his administration to open peace talks with these rebel groups.

By Gil C. Cabacungan, *Manila*
and Edwin O. Fernandez,
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE GOVERNMENT is in the process of establishing the links between domestic and international terror groups, even as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front continued to vehemently deny any ties with terrorist organizations.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye yesterday quoted President Macapagal-Arroyo as saying, "'the government is establishing the links between transnational and local terrorist groups to help us deal with the threat in a more comprehensive manner, even as we pursue our policy of peace, security and development in Mindanao.'"

Bunye said initial results of a government investigation pointed to possible ties between the MILF and Jemaah Islamiah, the Asian regional terror group with known links to Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida international terrorist network.

The JI has been linked to Indonesians charged with bombings in Metro Manila and Mindanao over the past three years that killed scores of civilians.

Bunye said the President wants to maintain a direct line of communication with Indonesia and neighboring countries to facilitate the exchange of intelligence information and help the government form a clearer picture of the Mindanao situation.

'Insistent'

The MILF, however, has repeatedly denied involvement in terrorism and criminality but said the government was "unbelievably insistent."

"We cannot cut ties with a group with which we do not have any links," said MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu, in reply to President Macapagal's statement on Thursday that peace negotiations could only resume once the separatist group severed its ties with terrorist and criminal organizations.

Kabalu said the government's insistence was due to its reluctance to pursue peace in Mindanao.

"We have not raised any preconditions to resuming the peace talks. We have shown our desire to continue the stalled negotiations, yet the government appears to be reluctant," he said.

Kabalu believes the government is trying to delay the peace talks to allow military operations against ranking MILF leaders to continue.

The group's leaders, including Salamat Hashim, Murad Ebrahim, Ghazali Jaafar and Kabalu himself, have million-peso bounties on their heads and have been the object of a hunt for their alleged involvement in recent bombings and other terrorist attacks in Mindanao which targeted civilians.

Kabalu said the government is trying to discredit the current MILF peace panel in an attempt to render all previous agreements forged invalid and ineffective.

Gov't motives

"Very obviously, one of the motives of the government is to discredit Brother Murad and all the previous agreements signed in Malaysia and Libya," he said.

Kabalu warned that unless the government set aside its preconditions, the peace talks could not move forward. Foremost of the conditions is that MILF chair Salamat Hashim sit on the peace panel.

Indons say terror raps a set-up

THE LAWYER for five Indonesians arrested on suspicion of planning a terrorist attack claimed yesterday the men had been set up, possibly by a real terrorist.

Police on Thursday charged the five Indonesians, including a 16-year-old boy, with illegal possession of explosives.

Three of the suspects were arrested Tuesday at a bus terminal in southern General Santos city carrying a leather bag with three improvised bombs, according to police. The two others were picked up the same day.

President Macapagal Arroyo praised the arrests and said her government would work with Jakarta to trace "the underground contacts" of the suspects, who live in the large Indonesian community in General Santos' Balonto district.

The military chief of staff, Gen. Narciso Abaya, said authorities were trying to determine whether the suspects were linked to the regional militant group Jemaah Islamiyah.

Lawyer Raul Tolentino rejected the terrorist link, claiming that four of the men are Christians and only one is a Muslim.

Tolentino described the men as "naive and innocent," and said they were lured by an unidentified man who claimed he was recruiting Indonesian fishermen, but that he may have set them up as fall guys for a bombing attempt.

Tolentino said the "recruiter" refused to identify himself to the Indonesians. He told the suspects that his job recruitment company had an office at the bus station, Tolentino said, adding that investigators found no such office.

Tolentino said the man invited the Indonesians for lunch at the bus station, but sat at a different table. Shortly afterward, an unidentified woman left a brown bag on her seat. The man then excused himself, saying he was going to the toilet, but moved the bag closer to the Indonesians before leaving the eatery at the bus terminal, Tolentino said.

Moments later, police arrived and arrested the men, he said.

"If the police would dig deeper, they would be able to find out that these boys were just used in a diabolical plan to probably maim people" at the bus terminal, which was bustling with a noontime crowd at the time, he said. *AP*

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
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929-70-41 to 43

June 17, 2003

DENR Administrative Order
No. 2003-21

SUBJECT : AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 99-53 (THE REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM [IFMP]).

Pursuant to Presidential Decree 705 of 1975, as amended, Executive Order (EO) 725 dated September 9, 1981, EO 278 dated July 25, 1987, EO 192 dated June 10, 1987 and EO 292 dated July 25, 1987 and Sec. 2, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution, and in order to provide standard procedure in the processing of application for conversion of Timber License Agreement (TLA) to an Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA), Section 9 of Department Administrative Order No. 99-53 is hereby amended as follows:

Section 9.1 Qualified Applicants for IFMA.

Any natural or juridical person who possesses the following qualifications may apply for an IFMA.

9.1.1 New application:-
    9.1.1.1 A Filipino citizen of legal age; or, a registered single proprietorship company;
    9.1.1.2 Partnership, cooperative or corporation whether public or private, duly registered under Philippine laws.
9.1.2 TLA holders who opt to convert their TLAs to IFMAs, subject to Section 9.2 hereunder;-

Sec. 9.2 Conditions under which conversion can be allowed.

For a TLA to be converted to an IFMA, the following conditions shall have been satisfied:

9.2.1 The TLA holder shall have signified in writing such intention for conversion not later than one (1) year prior to the date of expiration of the TLA to the Secretary; and
9.2.2 The applicant has shown satisfactory performance on the management and operation of the TLA and has complied with the terms and conditions thereof, as evidenced by a acomprehensive performance evaluation commissioned, or undetaken, by authority of the Secretary.

As a matter of procedure, the satisfactory performance and compliance to the terms and conditions of the TLA and pertinent rules and regulations should be determined based on performance standards and performance evaluation procedures prescribed by the DENR on at least, but not limited to the TLA holders' last five (5) year performance. The forest charges, including penalties and surcharges, if any, reforestation deposits, silvicultural fees or administrative fees due under the license shall have been fully paid as of the time of filing of the application for conversion.

Sec. 9.3 Size of Area.

The area that may be allowed for conversion may extend up to the size of the TLA area at the time of the conversion, subject to the exclusion of the following:

9.3.1 Areas prohibited for IFMA under Section 5 of DAO 99-53;
9.3.2 Other contentious areas which, by virtue of the subsequent issuance of pertinent laws, rules and regulations while the TLA is still in force, can not be made available for IFMA as per Section 5 of DAO 99-53.

If the area is found to be within an ancestral domain claim or title, that the required free and prior informed consent was properly obtained, before the filing of the application, from the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) concerned pursuant to Section 59 of Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise kown as the Indigenous Peoples Act of 1987 and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Administrative Order No. 3, Series of 2002.

Sec. 9.4 Application Requirements on Conversion of TLA to IFMA

Just like an original applicant, a TLA holder who intends to convert its TLA into an IFMA is required to submit the application requirements prescribed under Sec. 10 of DAO 99-53.

An application for conversion shall not be deemed perfected and shall not be given due course unless the conditions under Sec. 9.2 of this order, and the required application requirements, have been fully complied with.

This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation and upon acknowledgement by the UP Law Center.

(Sgd.) ELISEA G. GOZUN
Secretary

Inquirer–June 21, 2003

Nat'l Artist wants Muslim in SC

By Philip C. Tubeza

WHILE a controversy is brewing over who should fill the current vacant seat in the Supreme Court, National Artist F. Sionil Jose has recommended a former Muslim legislator to fill up the next vacancy later this year.

Jose wrote a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday and urged her to appoint former Rep. Michael Mastura to the High Court.

Another vacancy is expected later this year due to the retirement of Senior Associate Justice Josue Bellosillo on November 13.

"Please permit me to recommend Mr. Michael Mastura to the forthcoming vacancy in the Supreme Court. We have no one representing the Moros in the highest tribunal in the country," Jose said.

"Mr. Mastura is highly-qualified; he is a lawyer, a former legislator, educator, writer and historian whose sterling reputation is known in all Southeast Asian countries," he said.

"I have personally known Mr. Mastura for more than four decades as a man of great integrity, a most fitting representative of the Moro people," Jose added.

While the novelist vouched for Mastura's candidacy for the next SC vacancy, Court of Appeals justices also wrote to the President, hoping that she will pick one of their own to fill up the current vacant SC seat.

GMA gets first-hand look at school woes

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday went to the Batasan Hills National High School in Quezon City to discuss "safety" with its students, but she came face to face with the myriad problems of poverty instead.

Calling the school the "worst-case scenario," the President at the end of her visit promised to release P8 million for additional classrooms for the BHNHS and another high school where more than 200 students share one classroom.

The President visited the school located in a squatters area to attend an "LGU (local government unit) town hall meeting on student safety." Instead, she was handed a list of five "immediate needs" of the school by Ma. Lourdes San Pedro, president of the BHNHS student council.

Aside from classrooms, the needs include more security personnel to prevent drug pushers from preying on the students, and clearing the school's entrance of tricycles and jeepneys, as well as the parked vehicles of a private construction firm near the gate.

The school's 20,671-square-meter perimeter, of which it occupies only 7,000 sq. m., is also overrun with squatters.

The BHNHS was the same school the Senate Electoral Tribunal allowed to use its vacant courtrooms as classrooms.

Romulo Rosena, principal, said the school's problems stemmed from the dramatic rise in its student population from 500 to 9,124 in the five years since it was established on Dec. 4, 1998.

He said 65 to 70 students are crammed into one classroom and the school has only 161 teachers, 71 of them contractual.

Teresita Busadre, faculty club president, said the inadequate number of teachers and classrooms was compounded by the problem of security.

She said that because squatter families lived practically within spitting distance of the classrooms, classes were frequently interrupted by the "petty quarrels" among the residents.

"Students and teachers are often hit by thrown stones," she said.

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Diva Mercedes Matias Santiago; 93

COLORATURA Soprano Mercedes Matias Santiago died yesterday of a lingering illness. She was 93.

Her remains lie at Funeraria Paz on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City.

Born on March 4, 1910, Maestra studied in Italy in 1928 for five years and came back in 1932. She and two other divas, Luisa "Isang" Tapales and National Artist Jovita Fuentes, were refered to as the "triumverate" in the Philippine operatic scene.

She is best remembered as the local "Lucia (Lucia di Lammermoor)" for essaying such a role for so many times, apart from essaying the lead roles of Rigoletto, Barber of Seville, La Sonnambula and La Traviata, and mounting solo recitals and singing in important occasions.

She taught at the UP Conservatory of Music in the 30's and, after the war, at the UST Conservatory of Music, and other private schools. She was the mentor of internationally known singers such as Catalina Zandueta, Conchita Gaston and Dalisay Aldaba, among others.

Maestra is survived by her relatives and former students. Her remains will be cremated on Monday.

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3 tuna hijackers slain

PULILAN, Bulacan—Three men, who allegedly hijacked a container van loaded with P1-million worth of tuna products on Thursday night, were killed Friday during a gun battle with the police in Barangay Cutcut here.

Police identified the fatalities as Silvestre Padilla, Arnold Mavera and Vivencio Pecardo.

Senior Supt. Felizardo Serapio Jr., Bulacan police director, said Padilla and Mavera were in a stolen gray Mitsubishi Lancer that served as the security vehicle of the container van. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Polls, not pols, to determine if GMA will run

By Carlito Pablo

POLLS, not politicians, will make President Macapagal-Arroyo decide if she will run or not.

Opposition Rep. Abraham Mitra (LDP, Palawan) said that President Macapagal's political move for 2004 will be determined by survey results as interpreted by pollsters.

"Then the two-man jury here are Mahar Mangahas and Felipe Miranda," Mitra said referring to the heads of rival polling firms Social Weather Stations and Pulse Asia.

"The opinion of these two gentlemen has more weight that those of 10,000 politicos saying hosannas to her," Mitra said.

Mitra said that "only a dramatic rise" in the President's popularity rating would make her renege on her Dec. 30 pronouncement that she would not stand for election next year.

Previous surveys showed that Ms Macapagal would surely lose if elections were to be held.

"If she can climb up to the second spot among the presidentiables, then I think the President will be running," Mitra said.

Mitra, however, noted that if President Macapagal gets fourth place rating behind other probable candidates, then she will stick to her word.

Mitra doesn't agree with what Heherson Alvarez, spokesperson of the ruling Lakas-UMD party, said that the people should watch Ms Macapagal's body language.

"It is her who should be watching what the people's reaction to her plans is," Mitra said.

Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said that the odds of President Macapagal's victory in the 2004 elections is "55-45."

"It's 55-45 for her and this is partly because she has been telling people that she's not running anymore," said Nograles, Lakas party whip for Mindanao.

Nograles, a known supporter of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., did not say anything about Ms Macapagal's low popularity ratings.

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Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓ 41.40	394.75	353.35/bot
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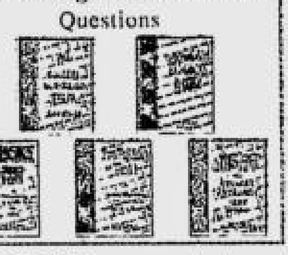

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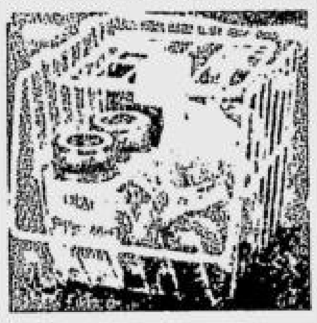

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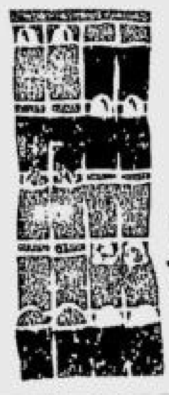

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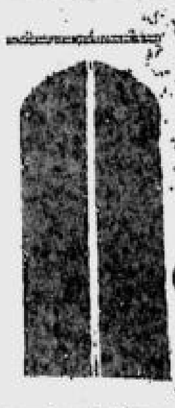

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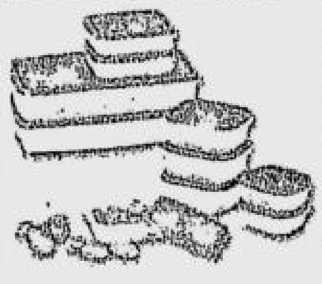

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Tatad: Erap attack on PDI ruined him

From page A1

their microphones under his nose, but felt betrayed whenever they quoted him out of context or reported what he thought were off-the-record musings. However often he got mauled in these "ambush interviews," he walked into them again and again.

"When the negative headlines, editorials and columns refused to abate, he decided to strike back. Thus began his war with the Philippine Daily Inquirer, which ultimately ruined him," wrote the former Senate majority leader.

Washington Post

According to Tatad, the most celebrated case of a media entity which succeeded in bringing down a top government official was The Washington Post, "whose reporting on the Watergate break-in helped to bring down (the late US) President Richard Nixon. It is not idle to speculate that the INQUIRER saw itself in the same role."

"This was something Estrada probably only half-understood. He had no full appreciation of Watergate, nor how his predecessors had suffered at the hands of the press," wrote the ex-senator.

The Catanduanes native cited, among others, the late President Elpidio Quirino whom he said "was savaged because of a mythical golden bedpan he was accused of acquiring at taxpayers' expense."

The late President Carlos Garcia "was taken apart for his wife's jewelry after he proclaimed his Filipino First policy. Most of her stones turned out to be costume jewelry."

Embarrassment

The father of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo—the late President Diosdado Macapagal—"succeeded in projecting himself as the 'poor boy from Lubao (Pampanga)' and enjoyed a reasonably good press despite his middling performance and his claim of having descended directly from Alexander the Great. He later wrote an anti-Marcos book and on its publication ran to the US ambassador's residence to seek political asylum. To his lasting embarrassment, his request was turned down. He was told Marcos had not even read his book, much less thought of arresting him," Tatad also wrote.

Alternative press vs Marcos

According to Tatad, Marcos "had the toughest and longest bout with the press. His fiercest critics were the Lopez-owned media, which zeroed in on Imelda Marcos' personal lifestyle and the alleged wrongdoings of his friends. Eventually all the major newspapers joined in. When he proclaimed martial law, Marcos shut down the media and organized his own. But an 'alternative press' emerged, which ultimately helped to depose him."

Corazon Aquino, Marcos' successor, "was revered by the press. In her six and a half years as President, the lights went out over much of the country; the tenant-farmers in her family-owned Hacienda Luisita lost their right to land reform; and she spent twice what Marcos had spent in 20 years—without leaving any visible sign of her spending, except for a few flyovers. But the press loved her for her husband Ninoy, who had started out as a newspaperman."

Tatad wrote that like Ms Aquino, former President Fidel Ramos "got a good press. He turned out to be a workaholic and a fairly decent manager. But he left unanswered questions on some big deals."

"Estrada thought that if anyone should be charged in court, it should have been Ramos, who he believed had played a central role in his ouster. Estrada swore on his father's grave that he had never stolen a red cent from government and that corruption was not among his many sins," Tatad added.

Public homage to Davide

On Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Tatad noted that "the Sunday Inquirer of Jan. 14, 2001 carried what he called the "most unembarrassed public homage Davide had ever received in all of his 65 years."

"It was past the season for the Nobel and he had not won the Prize. But the paper decided to mint its own "Filipino of the Year 2000" award, and 20 staff members, including the chief photographer, chose the Chief Justice over and above Singson, who fell short by at least five votes. **(Not true. The INQUIRER's Filipino of the Year Award is not newly-minted. It has been in place since 1991.—Editor)**

"The paean carried a huge poster photograph and took up a good part of the front page. It also mixed factual with fulsome praise," according to Tatad.

Davide "did not need this award. But obviously the paper wanted to make a point. It had not failed to lionize those who wanted Estrada out, including senators who continued to join rallies while sitting as judges in the impeachment court."

ESTRADA: INQUIRER boycott made the paper "the hottest commodity in town."

Tatad added that "with equal zeal, the paper had not failed to rubbish those who insisted on hearing both sides and presuming the respondent innocent until proved otherwise. Davide was not lacking in virtue. But in its efforts to crown him above the others, the paper made him larger than himself."

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1st Reading: 2 Cor 12:1-10
Gospel: Mt 6:24-34

Jesus said to his disciples, "No one can serve two masters; for he will either hate one and love the other, or he will be loyal to the first and look down on the second. You cannot at the same time serve God and money.

"This is why I tell you not to be worried about food and drink for yourself, or about clothes for your body. Is not life more important than food and is not the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow, they do not harvest and do not store food in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than birds?

"Can any of you add a day to your life by worrying about it? Why are you so worried about your clothes? Look at the flowers in the fields how they grow. They do not toil or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his wealth was clothed like one of these. If God so clothes the grass in the field which blooms today and is to be burned tomorrow in an oven, how much more will he clothe you? What little faith you have!

"Do not worry and say: What are we going to eat? What are we going to drink? Or: what shall we wear? The pagans busy themselves with such things; but your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. Set your heart first on the kingdom and justice of God and all these things will also be given to you. Do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Commentary

"When I observe the heavens the work of your hands, the moon and the stars you set in place—what is the mortal that you be mindful of him, the son of man, that you should care for him?" (Ps 8:5). Jesus seems to be reflecting on this psalm that expresses awe at how God, eternal, majestic and glorious as he is, can be so concerned with lowly and poor human beings. He seems to be saying, "Look, it should not really surprise you. God is your Father after all! And a father should look after the needs his children!" What consolation is there in this thought as we go through life with all its cares, pains, and deprivations! We have really only one thing to care about: how to make our Father proud of us his children.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LABOR LAW—Jurisdiction of the Voluntary Arbitrator—The jurisdiction of Voluntary Arbitrator or Panel of Voluntary Arbitrators and Labor Arbiters is clearly defined and specifically delineated in the Labor Code. The pertinent provisions of the Labor Code are Articles 217, 261 and 262. In construing the above provisions, the Supreme Court opined in San Jose vs. NLRC, that the jurisdiction of the Labor Arbiter and the Voluntary Arbitrator or Panel of Voluntary Arbitrators over the cases enumerated in the Labor Code, Articles 217, 261 and 262, can possibly include money claims in one form or another. Comparatively, in Reformist Union of R.B. Liner, Inc. vs. NLRC, compulsory arbitration has been defined both as "the process of settlement of labor disputes by a government agency which has the authority to investigate and to make an award which is binding on all the parties, and as a mode of arbitration where the parties are compelled to accept the resolution of their dispute through arbitration by a third party." While a voluntary arbitrator is not part of the governmental unit or labor department's personnel, said arbitrator renders arbitration services provided for under labor laws. Generally, the arbitrator is expected to decide only those questions expressly delineated by the submission agreement. Nevertheless, the arbitrator can assume that he has the necessary power to make a final settlement since arbitration is the final resort for the adjudication of disputes. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, Ludo and Luym Corporation v. Saornido, G.R. No. 140960, Jan. 20] DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

My brother stole my name, man tells court

From page A1

was a high school student at the Saint Louis University in 1958 when a teacher advised students who were too poor to enter college to try to join the US Navy instead.

"Recruitment by the US Navy was a big deal during those times. Recruits were always in the newspapers," Victorino said in Filipino.

Victorino sent countless applications to a recruitment office at Sangley Point in Cavite. Because he had no permanent address in Baguio, he used his mother's house in Pangasinan as his return address.

"I never received a call from the US Navy," he said.

Then one day in 1963, Valeriano showed up in Baguio to borrow money from his brother for bus fare to Sangley Point.

"He told me he got a call from the Navy and was on his way to sign up," Victorino said. "I didn't think there was anything wrong with that. I gave him P40, and bade him good luck."

After that the two brothers were practically out of touch with each other.

'Victorino' dies

The man the US Navy recognized as steward (Victorino) de Vera joined the Navy on May 24, 1963. He married Lolita Villanueva in 1965 using the name Victorino in the marriage certificate. His children's records bear the name "Victorino" as their father.

He retired in Baguio in 1986 and died of diabetes complications in June 1988.

His wife obtained a death certificate bearing the name Victorino de Vera. She currently receives monthly pension checks from the US Navy.

Identity crisis

In 2001, the real Victorino, the older of the De Veras, figured in a land dispute with the widow. The dispute arose over a house built on the lot of the De Vera matriarch. Victorino said it was only then that he learned that his brother had assumed his identity for 25 years.

Details about Victorino's "identity crisis" were contained in a January decision of a Baguio regional trial court.

In his decision, Judge Fernando Pamintuan said Valeriano's widow admitted the identity switch, but she had claimed that Victorino gave Valeriano permission to do it.

"In the service record of Valeriano de Vera, the name written was Victorino de Vera, and it had to be in the name of Victorino because Valeriano had (a) police record and it would affect his application in the US Navy," Pamintuan wrote.

"It appears ... that when Valeriano ... joined the US Navy, he used (his brother's name because Victorino) had a high school diploma (and Valeriano had) not (yet) finished high school."

After 11 years

According to court records obtained by the INQUIRER, Lolita claimed she was apprised of her husband's true name only in 1976, 11 years after they had gotten married. She said it was Valeriano's mother who informed her about the mix-up.

In his decision, Pamintuan said Victorino's family had threatened to report Valeriano to the US Embassy. He noted that the widow had feared that her pension would be cut off and her children would suffer from any disclosure to be made by Victorino to the US Embassy.

The US Embassy has been advised about the alleged deception. The INQUIRER obtained a communication between Victorino and Jay Carrick, a representative of the US Department of Veteran Affairs who had been soliciting information about the deceased Navy man.

Victorino has filed another petition before the Baguio regional trial court asking for the correction of entries in civil registries which state that he had already died. He is concerned that properties under his name might be affected because official records show that "Victorino" de Vera is already dead.

Dead men have no fault

The INQUIRER could not contact Lolita de Vera on her cellular phone. But her counsel, Molly Abiog, said any perceived criminal or civil violation throughout Valeriano's US Navy career could no longer be exploited because "he is dead."

"Right now, all I want is to protect his widow because she relies on her pension from the US. Under the law, a dead man cannot be faulted for anything," Abiog said.

She said it was Victorino's agenda that should be suspect.

"Why did it take him this long to surface? It is impossible that he never knew (Valeriano was using his name). We have letters from Victorino to Valeriano proving that (Victorino) knew about the arrangement," she said.

Victorino denied that he had sanctioned the identity switch. He said he had always suspected something was amiss about Valeriano's career but only got proof when he and Lolita faced off in court.

Dacer slay witness 'very much alive' and hiding

STAR WITNESS Supt. Glenn Dumlao was neither kidnapped nor killed in connection with the Dacer-Corbito murder, according to a top ranking police official.

"He's very alive. He's just around the corner, lying low," he told the INQUIRER yesterday on condition of anonymity.

Dumlao left Camp Crame on May 19 in "dismay" over his custodians at the Philippine National Police Intelligence Group, the source said.

"He felt that he was being neglected and that his security was somehow compromised," said the official who has been in touch with the missing officer.

Dumlao's supposed disappointment began after his former custodian Senior Supt. Rolando Anonuevo was suddenly sacked.

The officer felt that Anonuevo's replacement failed to properly handle his security, according to the source.

"He felt that it would be much safer for him to go outside than to stay in the camp," he said.

The source could not say if Dumlao would still seek protective custody from the PNP or remain in hiding.

Dumlao's disappearance is expected to jeopardize the investigation of the abduction and murder of publicist Salvador "Buddy" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito. *Christian Esguerra*

Senate a dead institution, says former senator

By Jerry Esplanada

TATAD

"A DEAD institution . . . that has not produced anything."

That's today's Senate through ex-Sen. Francisco "Kit" Tatad's eyes—and one reason he is not running for his old seat in May 2004.

Tatad, who chairs the advisory council of the opposition Puwersa ng Masa, told the INQUIRER he had better things to do, like "writing a book," than run again for public office.

The politician from Bicol said he would "rather help the party in some other way, like supporting the opposition's presidential candidate"—a choice between "initial favorite" Sen. Panfilo Lacson and businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

When interviewed, Tatad emphasized he did not want to be part of a "dead institution . . . that's the Senate right now."

He said the chamber, "used to be the training ground for future Presidents. But it has become a dead institution. So how can a dead institution produce leaders that will become President?

"To begin with," he said, "it has not produced anything. Even on the most serious issues you do not hear anything from the Senate. That speaks for the institution."

Tatad did not name names but he assailed some senators who, he said, "do not even know the rules."

Personal

"They do not observe the rules governing Senate proceedings. And the quarrels among senators are no longer on issues; they're personal. When they clash on the floor their language is unparliamentary, and they even carry their conflicts outside the Senate hall," he said.

Tatad, who left the Senate at the end of three terms in 2001, deplored administration senators who took part in then President Joseph Estrada's ouster in January that year, which he called a "period of political derangement."

"Many of those in the Senate and many of those aspiring today for national leadership were part of that coup. Are we going to say that those who destroyed the constitutional order will be the ones to save us from our national crisis? I don't think so," he said.

Fresh mandate

Tatad described the constitutional system as "exhausted."

"That's why it no longer works. We need to reform the system. It's unfortunate it was Speaker Jose de Venecia who came forward with a proposal for constitutional reform. That's a proposal coming from a Congress that is on the way out. If we're going to propose any constitutional changes through a constituent assembly, I think, as a minimum requirement, Congress should have at least a fresh mandate. It should be a new Congress or one in its midterm, not on the way out," he said.

Tatad gave this reporter a copy of his book "A Nation on Fire," where he claims politics has "become the nation's biggest business. This is a serious disorder, a major cause of underdevelopment."

"We are suffering from a surfeit of politics. Politicians have become the bane of the nation. But we seem not to be learning any lessons at all. While the rest of the world is focused on economic and moral survival, our politicians are riveted on how to gain a few sound bites or column inches through their latest publicity stunts," the ex-senator had written.

Reds claim they abducted, freed Zambales governor

COMMUNIST rebels claimed Friday they abducted and then released a northern provincial governor last month to warn him against abusing farmers and workers.

Gov. Vicente Magsaysay of Zambales, however, denied he had been seized by the guerrillas, saying his political rivals may have spread the story to damage his reputation.

In a statement, the New People's Army's Josepino Corpuz Command said guerrillas operating in Zambales raided Magsaysay's vacation house, which was under construction, outside the provincial capital of Iba on May 25, surprising the governor and disarming his six bodyguards.

The rebels said they seized a machine gun, two M-14 rifles, a grenade launcher, two other assault rifles and several pistols from the governor and his men.

The rebels said they seized Magsaysay "to take up some matters with him," including complaints from farmers who had been allegedly evicted by the governor, and workers who complained they had not been paid wages, bonuses and overtime.

"Governor Magsaysay and his men are legitimate targets of the NPA," the statement said. "They violated laws of the people's revolutionary government by exploiting the peasant masses and maintaining a virtual private army."

Magsaysay denied the incident took place. He said, however, that unidentified gunmen briefly held up a government driver and his vehicle in the province on the same day the rebels claimed to have kidnapped him.

Provincial police have no report of the alleged kidnapping.

On Wednesday, Manila radio station dzRH reported the kidnapping, saying the governor had been ransomed. The rebels denied any ransom was paid. *AP*

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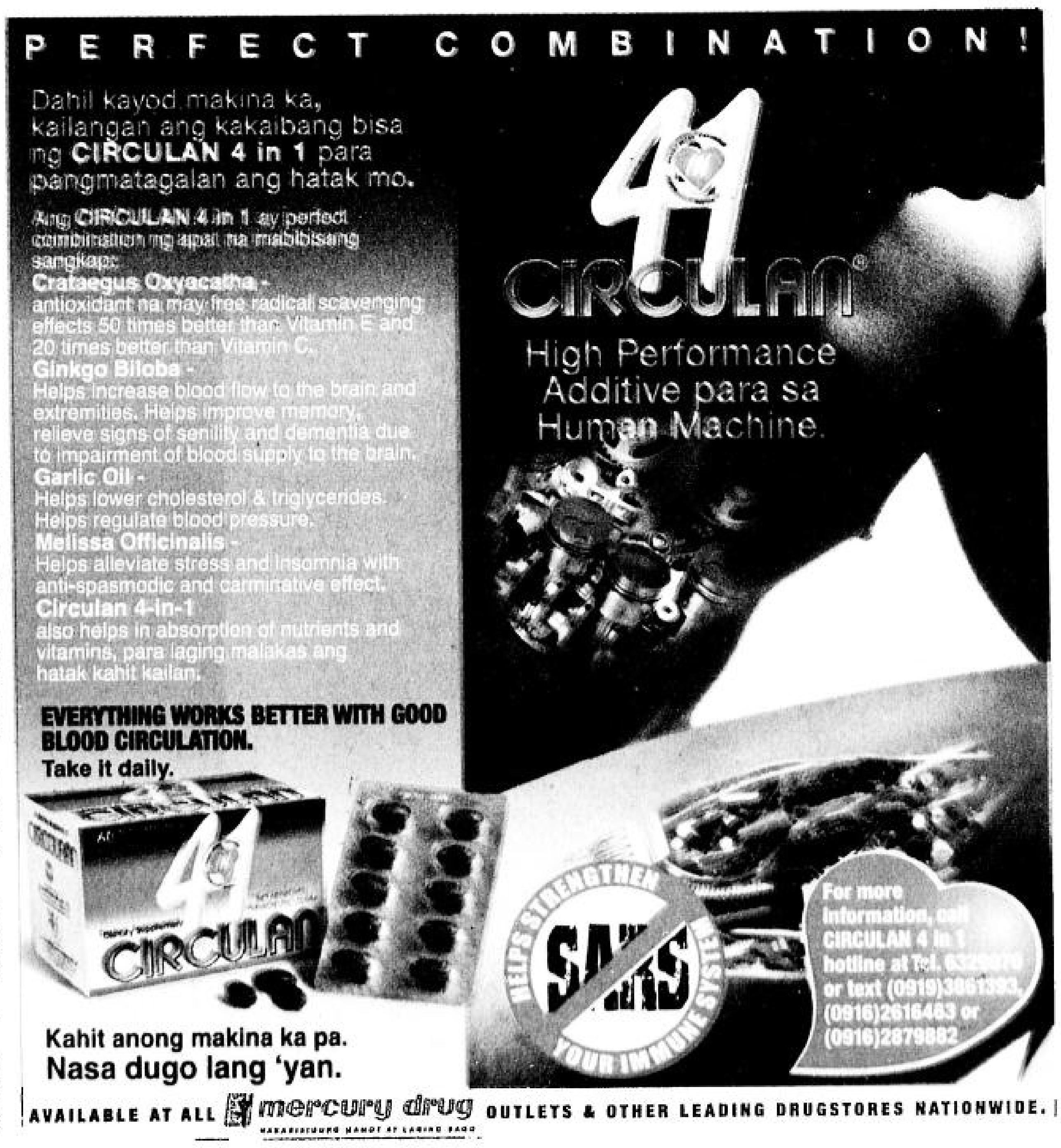

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Founding Chairman

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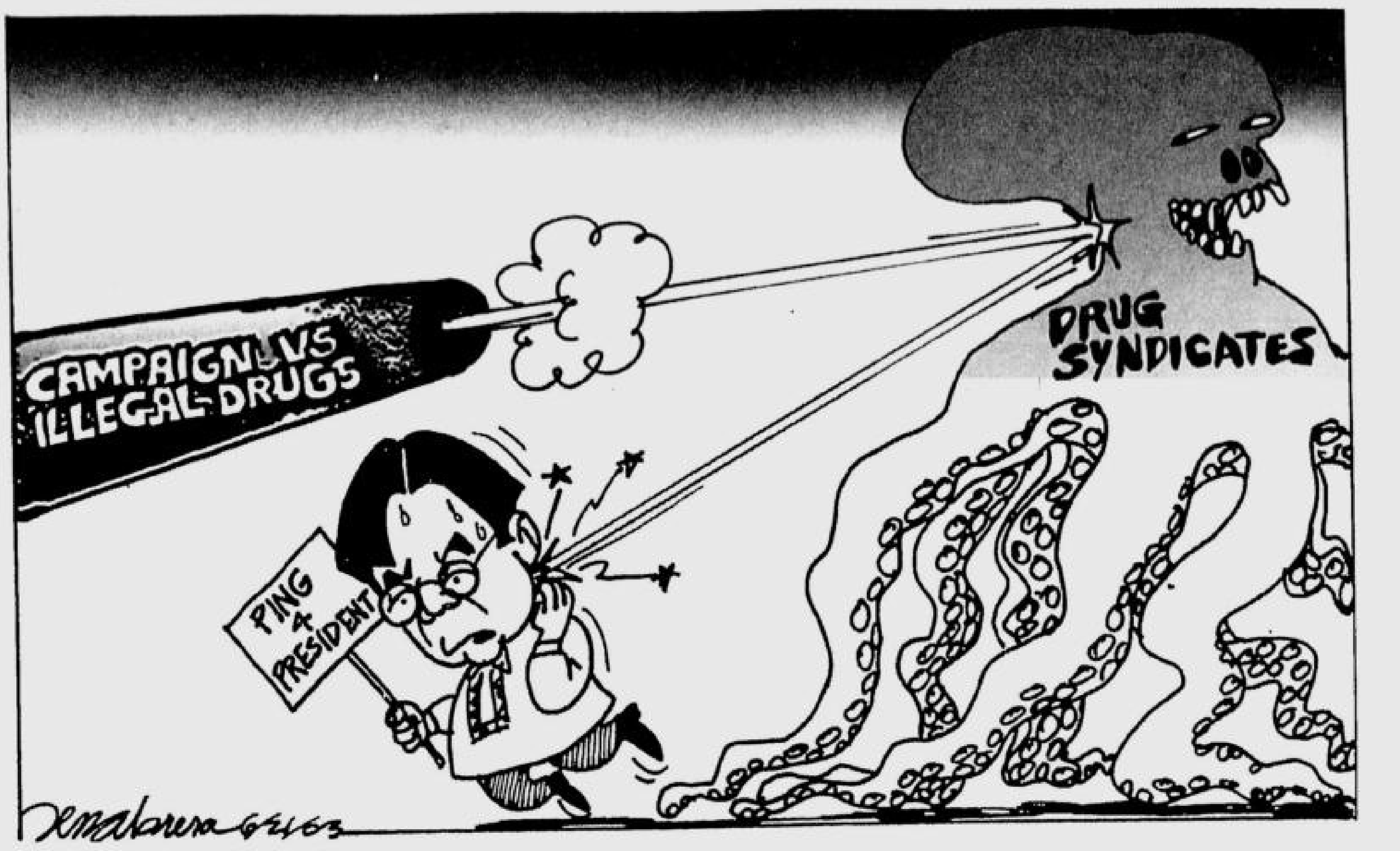

EDITORIALS

Wait a minute

THIS is a forgetful country.

The way Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco has been positioning himself as probable presidential candidate, you'd think it was the most natural thing in the world. Jose de Venecia has been his most ardent promoter, even if he keeps denying it. What his actions and his mouth say tell different things. His mouth says no, his actions say yes.

Wasn't Danding Cojuangco the Marcos crony who had to flee the country after the Edsa Revolution to escape an irate citizenry? Who did so not to preserve integrity or property but just to preserve hide? And who managed to come back only several years after the event, such was the fury of the citizens?

Well, the fact that he managed to come back already speaks of the forgetfulness of this country. Among the first to welcome him were those who had taken part in Edsa but had been beneficiaries of his selective generosity. Not the least people in sports who received part of his largesse. They forgot that the money he used to turn himself into a patron of sports did not come from his inheritance but from the toil of the coconut farmers.

To this day, he has yet to explain the origins of his wealth. The coconut farmers, who were the victims of a cruel, Sheriff-of-Nottingham-type levy, of course, have an explanation for it: He ripped it off from them. He scooped it literally from the sweat on their backs.

Cojuangco's defenders have since argued that unlike the other Marcos cronies, Cojuangco used the money well, buying San Miguel Corp. and turning in a tidy profit. Well, that's like comparing the relative virtues of thieves. True enough, the way things are in this country, the fact that one is not as much a wastrel as another counts for something. But only so far. Quite apart from that, it's all very well that he turned in a tidy profit, except that it merely disappeared into his pockets and not into the grimy and tattered ones of those who owned the capital.

Just as breathtaking is the ease with which Panfilo "Ping" Lacson is advertising his availability to run for president. Indeed, his qualifications to run this country as it ought to be run.

Lacson was arguably the closest ally of Erap, the fair-haired boy the former and disgraced president was grooming to succeed him. Lacson has been advertising himself as the one person who has pushed back crime in this country and will make it disappear completely if he becomes president. Yet it was precisely under his term as head law enforcer that this country fell into a state of utter lawlessness. It was then that the police turned into a presidential private army upholding corruption, harboring thugs and wreaking mayhem.

That was the very reason this country staged another Edsa.

Lacson's supporters complain that Malacañang's current anti-drug campaign is aimed at him. Maybe so; President Macapagal-Arroyo has been busily campaigning herself. But what of it? If he is guilty of drug trafficking, or if ISAFP chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus can produce evidence pointing to it, then he should be haled to court rather than be allowed to present himself to the voters. There is no statute of limitations on drug trafficking.

This country forgets so easily.

There they go

IT'S still a year before next elections, but the campaign season has already begun. Everyone has been busy campaigning, or positioning himself.

The blame there lies in great part on President Macapagal-Arroyo. She may hem and haw, but you will not find anyone betting serious money that she will **not** run again. In fact, everyone is betting she will. Which is fairly obvious. Forget what she says, her series of actions over the last three months have campaign written all over them.

The country breathed a sigh of relief last December when Ms Macapagal declared in the solemnest terms, a solemnity driven home by falling ratings, she would not run again but devote her last year and a half to making this country recover. The virtue of it being that it would dispel all talk of electoral politics over that period and bring everyone to emulate her spirit of self-sacrifice.

Alas, she recovered her ambition faster than the country recovered its health. And so, the doors are flung open and there they go.

'Tempus fugit'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

WITH ALL due respect, may I suggest to the Supreme Court that it decide as soon as possible the petition filed last month against the Overseas Absentee Voting Law. I expect that the usual Comment from the Solicitor General has been required and by this time already submitted unless he has requested more time, as usual, and his motion has been granted, also as usual.

Considering the serious constitutional issue raised, and its simplicity, I would imagine that the high tribunal should have reached its decision by now. The law allows Filipinos who have immigrated to foreign countries and thus lost their legal residence in the Philippines to vote here beginning next year. The only condition is that they should promise under oath to again permanently reside in this country within three years from their voting in our elections.

Immigration betokens the person's abandonment of his former permanent residence and his acquisition of a new permanent residence in the country to which he has transferred. A Filipino permanently resident in a foreign country has until now been barred from voting here for lack of the residence qualification required by the Constitution itself. The challenged statute would defy that mandate by allowing Filipinos permanently resident in other countries to vote in Philippine elections.

Suffrage may be exercised by any Filipino not otherwise disqualified by law who is at least 18 years of age and must have resided in the Philippines for at least one year and in the place where he proposes to vote for at least six months. These qualifications must be possessed on the day of the election; they are not prospective, as the questioned law allows. A Filipino permanently residing abroad may register and vote under that law after making the required sworn promise, which he may or may not at all intend to keep. Or he may die within that period and join the ghosts of deceased Filipinos who continue to vote beyond the grave.

Although good faith is presumed, it is unrealistic to suppose that every one of these favored individuals will keep their sworn promise. Many of them, especially those enjoying their lives outside the Philippines, will exercise their special if unlawful privilege only upon the persuasion of resourceful candidates but without the intention of keeping that promise.

A Filipino permanently residing in the Philippines but for less than one year or in the place where he proposes to vote for less than six months is not allowed to vote. But a Filipino permanently residing in a foreign country is allowed to vote on the mere pledge that he will permanently reside here later.

Why not also allow 15-year-old Filipinos to vote on the reasonable expectation that they will still be alive when they reach the required age of 18? This will happen inevitably and involuntarily by the mere passage of time. By contrast, compliance with the promise made by the Filipino immigrant to resume his permanent residence here depends entirely on his own volition. And the sanctions of our own laws cannot reach him abroad if he reneges on his oath.

While the high court ponders this simple legal question, the Commission on Elections has begun the registration of the Filipino immigrants who want to vote long distance in the 2004 elections. Hundreds of millions of pesos will be spent for this operation, which may be wasted if the Supreme Court annuls the law. We have squandered so much on unnecessary expenditures, like the P8.5 million purchase of seven brand-new luxury cars for the election commissioners, and we may be throwing away more public funds if the stupid law is nullified.

And how do we ensure the regularity of the voting procedures abroad when widespread election anomalies are committed in this country under the very nose of the Comelec?

On another urgent matter that has remained unresolved to date, I received a concerned report from some employees of the Senate on the latest development on the legislative investigation of Sen. Panfilo Lacson. According to the records of the body's sessions last June 4 and 5, Sen. Robert Z. Barbers, spokesman of the three committees that conducted the probe, was ready to sponsor their Joint Report for plenary deliberation. This was blocked by Lacson himself last July 31, 2002, and it was questioned again this time on another procedural ground.

Additionally, Sen. John Osmeña said the report should not be discussed in the absence of Senator Lacson (who was there a few minutes ago but had stepped out, probably to precisely prevent the deliberation). Later, Osmeña and his cousin Serge left the session hall, thus raising the question of quorum that nevertheless was declared to be present. To make a long story short, the minority tactics prevailed again, and Senator Barbers' sponsorship speech was postponed until the resumption of the Senate session on July 28. This will add another two months to the delay in the decision of the Lacson investigation that was terminated on Sept. 5, 2001.

Tempus fugit, but justice waits.

Do we have 8 million fake voters?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE TOTAL population of the Philippines as of July 2002, per the National Census and Statistics Office (NSO), was 79.9 million. The voting population (18 years and older) was 45.8 million (57 percent of total) and the registered voters totaled 37.9 million (83 percent of voting population).

Aside from the population estimate, should the rest of the statistics set any alarm bells ringing? Not at all. The increased percentage of voting population to total population—from 51 percent in 1980—is easily explained by the increase in average life expectancy. The percentage of registered voters to voting population was 111.79 percent in 1982, which obviously means that the voters' list was padded. And it was 91 percent during the 1986 snap elections, which is rather high, but definitely not statistically improbable. Compared to those ratios, the 2002 figure of 83 percent would almost elicit a yawn.

Could there be any padding of the voters' list? Of course. Last April 2, the Comelec en banc noted the report of its Election Records and Statistics Department (ERSD) and the Management Information Systems (MIS) to the effect that they examined 34.2 million voters' names in their Computerized Voters List (CVL)—not a complete listing—and found 87,741 duplicate names or double/multiple registrants (based on last name, first name, middle name, date of birth). That amounts to about one-fourth of one percent (0.257 percent), which is consistent with estimates from the private sector: from the database of Popoy Juico's FindPrecinct project, he estimated that in Metro Manila, double registrants comprised 0.3 percent of the voters' list—15,000 out of 5 million—while in 26 other cities, the figure was 0.2 percent. Again, nothing to be alarmed about, especially since the names were purged.

But official records notwithstanding, a consultant to the Comelec en banc, one Carol Carreon, wrote in a column in Computerworld magazine last March 3 that "the current estimate is that the (voters') list is currently wrong to the tune of five million names out of 38 million." Two and a half months later on June 2, in the same magazine, she wrote: "The Comelec's estimate for the number of potential voters...ranges between 30 million and 34 million voters....The current list has more than 38 million voters." Which implies a padding of the voters' list by anywhere from 4 to 8 million votes. This issue is relevant to the Comelec's P1-billion voter validation project.

It was therefore perfectly natural to ask: Where do these figures come from? How are they derived? Which is exactly what my daughter Toby asked of Ms Carreon. On my part, I was puzzled as to why there should be two totally divergent estimates—the only way one can describe the difference between 87,000 and 4-8 million, the difference between 0.257 percent and 10-27 percent, from supposedly the same agency.

Therein lies a tale. It took almost three months of being given the runaround (my daughter can be as tenacious as a bulldog) before she was able to pinpoint that the estimate was contained in a paper written by Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco and delivered at the ASPAP-NCPAG Conference (Association of Schools of Public Administration in the Philippines—National College of Public Administration and Governance of UP).

That is not the end. Tancangco's office, asked for a copy of the paper (it having been delivered at a conference and therefore a public document), said first that they would clear it with "Ma'am Carol," since the commissioner was out of town. Then they said that they had no copy of the paper(!), but that it should be available from the ASPAP, the secretariat of which is UP's own NCPAG, with its dean as ex-oficio secretary general.

Light at the end of the tunnel? Shockingly, no. NCPAG would not release a copy of the paper and when I called to inquire why, I got no satisfaction either. To make a long and unpleasant story short, Dean Maricon Alfiler did not release the paper, apparently because she was told not to by Tancangco (long distance).

I am in the process of writing the good dean to ask for clarification of her actions—like, since when has a dean of a college in UP refused to release a public document, in utter disregard of the principle of transparency, not to say academic freedom? How can this be reconciled with good governance?

As of this writing, I have received one part of the Tancangco paper, thanks to Prof. Antonius Umali, chair of the Political Science Department of PUP and a participant in the conference. And I got his name from a list of 100 participants provided by Nena Angeles of NCPAG, thanks to the intervention of former Dean Chit Tapales.

Until I get the rest of the Tancangco document, however, I regret to say that the question that remains unanswered is: How did she deduce a figure of only 30-34 million potential voters (which would imply padding of the current voters' list by 4 to 8 million voters)? That document has been so closely guarded, it is almost as if there is a fear of exposure—to the light of a critical review.

Maybe Tancangco should be afraid. Thirteen years ago, she was sanctioned by the academic community for her wrong arithmetic, wrong logic and therefore wrong conclusions. Unless she has improved since then, she might face the same consequences—this time from a larger public.

Lots of baggage

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SEN. Panfilo Lacson opines that the raid by PNP elements on the security agencies of his brother Romulo, and the government's current campaign against drug-trafficking are politically inspired. The PNP recently raided the security agencies, armed with a search warrant, and said a substantial amount of high-grade explosives and bomb devices were found in the premises. The Lacson camp, however, has asserted that these were planted by his political enemies, even as it also branded the administration's revival of the campaign against the drug menace as political harassment.

Lacson's problem is that he has too many political baggage. For instance, given the current political temper, with the opposition talking about rousing up a mob to rescue former President Estrada, it's easy enough to associate Lacson's camp with those explosives. The same is true of the anti-drugs campaign: it's hard to extricate his name from it.

* * *

Key women supporters of former Sen. Raul Roco, led by his longtime law partner Lorna Patajo-Kapunan, launched earlier this week "Women for Roco" at the PICC. The turnout of about 8,000 women leaders from all walks of life was quite large and enthusiastic. Aside from his wife Sonia and his 87-year-old mother, Rosario Sagarbarria-Roco of Naga, women leaders present included former Sen. Leticia Shahani, former Transportation Undersecretary Josefina Lichauco, wives of his Congress supporters and singer Celeste Legaspi, whose father, the late painter and National Artist Cesar Legaspi, had been a law client of Roco.

I had never seen Roco in a campaign before, but now I understand where his appeal, which cuts across all sectors of society, especially the youth, comes from. Dressed in his signature Hawaiian polo shirt, he spoke very casually in Filipino, quoting liberally from Rizal, Balagtas and other distinguished Filipinos, on easy-to-understand concepts, such as respect for women and children and "Zero tolerance for corruption," which seems to be his campaign battle cry. One came away feeling good about the Filipino after his speech. Roco is off to the hustings, but whether he will have the logistics and organization to back him up is the question.

* * *

Reports indicate that Nationalist People's Coalition chair Eduardo Cojuangco is closely watching and weighing the enigmatic moves of President Macapagal-Arroyo with regard to 2004. But as I reported earlier, his NPC and San Miguel Corp., his flagship business, are gearing up as though he were running. One indication is that SMC exclusive dealerships are being given out to key political supporters. For instance, a son of former Sen. Ernesto Maceda just got the exclusive SMC dealership in a part of Laguna. But the feeling of some pundits is that if Cojuangco won't run and merely throws his political support behind GMA, this astute politician would naturally seek to extract the right price for such valuable support. Among the issues now pending against Cojuangco are the resolution of the coconut levy question before the Supreme Court and the control of SMC, whose general stockholders' annual meeting will be on June 25.

* * *

Earlier I had written of the complaint of friends of mine residing in Angeles City and San Fernando, Pampanga, about the horrendous traffic on the Northern Luzon Expressway (NLE). This is being caused by the construction and rehabilitation work in the San Simon-San Fernando stretch, which has resulted in the closure of some lanes; the poor state of the lanes that are open; and the lack of supervision by NLE personnel especially during critical hours and in heavy downpour. On a recent trip to the North, however, I noticed a big difference. There are people now manning the **junctions at the critical hours, and the potholes have been repaired. My Pampanga friends attest that indeed there has been a big improvement in the NLE. Jose "Ping" de Jesus, president and CEO of the Manila North Tollways Corp. which is in charge of the NLE, also wrote to explain to our readers what's going on in the NLE and I'll be happy to feature his comments on Monday.**

* * *

My friend Boots Mejia of UP's Class '77 wants to inform the readers about the UP general alumni-faculty homecoming and reunion this afternoon at 4 p.m. at the Bahay ng Alumni in Diliman, Quezon City, with the theme "Population and the Quality of Life of the Filipino." The homecoming is a joint effort of the university led by its president, Francisco Nemenzo, and the UP Alumni Association (UPAA). This year's main celebrators are Class '43, the Diamond Jubilarians, who will present "One Afternoon in Japanese-Occupied Manila"; Class '53, the Golden Jubilarians, who will reenact the transfer of the Oblation from its original location in Manila to Diliman; Class '63, the Ruby Jubilarians, who will debate in a "balagtasan" the homecoming theme, and Class '77, the Silver Jubilarians, who will dance to the music of the 1970s.

* * *

The annual UP Outstanding Alumni Awards will also be conferred today. Among the 24 awardees are Senate President Franklin Drilon, "Most Distinguished Alumnus"; PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac, "Most Distinguished Alumna"; Ponciano Mathay and Prof. Amelia Lapena-Bonifacio, "Lifetime Distinguished Achievement Awards"; Secretary Emilia Boncodin, Business Administration; Prof. Benjamin Cervantes, Theater Arts; Felipe I. Gozon, Mass Communications; Augusto Lopez and the late Rafael M. Salas, Special Presidential Award. The UPAA Outstanding Alumni Chapter Award goes to the UPAA of Davao Inc.

Despite the current trouble between two groups that competed in the recent elections of the UPAA, today's homecoming should be an occasion for merrymaking and camaraderie. Let's all show up at Diliman.

Iraqi women raise their voices

FEATURE

Wafa Amr

Women paid a heavy price after the (UN) sanctions

BAGHDAD—Fear of lawlessness has kept many Iraqi women at home since the war to oust Saddam Hussein. But some are organizing to reverse a decade-long erosion in women's rights, even as Islamic radicals flex their muscles.

Women have mostly stayed off the streets since US-led forces toppled Saddam on April 9 and left a power vacuum that criminals freed en masse before the war were swift to exploit. Iraqis swapped tales about abductions, rape, armed robbery and carjacking. Families would not let their daughters attend school. Women, who hold many jobs in government offices and health facilities, stopped driving or going to work.

Two months on, security in Baghdad has improved somewhat, but the old sense of personal safety is missing. A few women are back at the wheel. Those working again head home by noon.

The power vacuum also created space for Muslim militants to try to impose strict Islamic laws and dress codes that many urban Iraqi women see as threatening their personal freedoms.

Some of them are working with the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) to try to ensure that women carve out a better position in the new Iraq than they had in the old.

"We need to pull women out of their homes and plunge them into all areas of life," Iraqi human rights activist Safia al-Souhail told Reuters.

No one knows how many women there are in Iraq, which urgently needs a census, but some estimates say they make up more than 60 percent of the population because three wars in two decades have killed so many Iraqi men.

Iraqi women say their status improved in the first two decades of Baathist rule, but things changed for the worse after the 1991 Gulf War. More than 12 years of UN sanctions impoverished all but a few privileged Iraqis. Many families favored sons over daughters in areas such as education.

"Women paid a heavy price after the (UN) sanctions. Education of women dropped from 92 percent in the mid-1980s to 69 percent in the 1990s, which meant one in three women did not attend school," said Ghada Kachachi of the UN Children's Fund.

Saddam, shaken by post-Gulf War revolts against him, sought to bolster his position by an "Islamization" campaign, which included laws that struck at some fundamental women's rights.

"We want to cancel some legislation. For instance, a 1992 law bans the foreign travel of a woman if she is not escorted by her father or husband. An Iraqi woman married to a non-Iraqi can't give her children her nationality," Awatef al-Aswad, a woman who works in finance, told Reuters.

Women said they had also suffered increasing job discrimination in government ministries in the 1990s, though exceptions were made for female Baath party members.

The combined impact of these changes was profound. "The sanctions and some of the regime's discriminatory laws led to a rise in women's illiteracy, to early marriages and to a deterioration in women's liberties," said Lina Aboud, a doctor teaching at al-Kindi Pharmaceutical College.

The US-British administration is keen to encourage women to step forward and claim their place in postwar Iraq and has made sure they are represented in its political consultations.

"It took quite a long time to move women on to the political process because they had been oppressed for 35 years," said Julie Chappell, a CPA official.

Chappell said the CPA was trying to help women regain confidence and prepare for a women's conference on July 6. "They were more worried about urgent (postwar) needs such as security, electricity, water, gas, but it's much easier now."

She said Iraqi women had set up five committees to draft ideas for key areas in which they want a say: the constitution, education, health, economy and law.

Some women were also talking to moderate Shi'ite Muslim clerics about how to secure the withdrawal of edicts on strict Islamic law issued by their militant colleagues.

Nermin Othman, education minister in what has been an autonomous Kurdish administration in northern Iraq since the 1991 Gulf War, said women's experience there could be a model for their sisters in the rest of the country. "In Iraqi Kurdistan, women have full rights and freedom of speech and organization. We have canceled some discriminatory laws and introduced new legislation that ensures their rights."

Othman said Kurds had worked hard to reduce violence against women and had set up shelters for battered women. A woman now has the right to divorce an abusive husband, and honor killings are treated legally as violent crimes.

"We are trying now to upgrade the status of Iraqi women to that of Kurdish women," Othman said.

Reuters

An American point of view

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

NOW this sure reminds me of the war in Iraq and its attendant troubles:

"Dewey's victory in Manila Bay, to Europe so astonishing in its one-sidedness and finish, was something more than a victory to America. It resembled the discovery of a new world. Till then not one in a thousand of American voters could have located the Philippine Islands, offhand..."

This was according to Adjutant E. Hannaford, who went on to say that Adm. George Dewey's victory "imposed upon the American people a responsibility of which they had never dreamed, but which they cannot now avoid."

This too sounds familiar. The native mind, the adjutant concluded, was robust in respect to "holidays, fiestas, cockfights and other amusements." Besides Sundays, there were 99 holidays a year. With Sundays included, these totaled 151 in all! The patron saint of Manila was St. Francis the Tearful, who was rumored to have wept copiously when Manila was in danger. On his feast, the archbishop and priests in full regalia would hold a procession in which soldiers, civilians and dignitaries took place. (I don't know where Hannaford got his information, for as far as I know the patron saint was San Andres.)

All towns had a titular saint whose feast day was celebrated with "music, cockfighting, processions and fireworks." Fiestas during Spanish times would run Sunday to Sunday.

Wallace Cumming, writing in Century Magazine, said that processions often took place at night, with men, women and children walking in single file along the street with a lighted candle in hand. Twelve or more men would carry images of Our Lord, the Virgin and the saints surrounded by priests and a musical band. "Some of the images were covered with diamonds and other precious stones; there was always a guard of soldiers with fixed bayonets about the image."

While the procession was going on, thousands of home-made rockets and firecrackers would be set off. No fiesta was complete without them.

One particular procession mentioned was participated in only by natives and the poorer *mestizos*. It took place during Holy Week. Everyone came dressed in a loose, floor-length gray robe with a hood and they would chant, "*Santa Maria, Madre de Dios, ora pro nobis.*" This costume was apparently what one wore at one's burial and everyone in Manila was supposed to have owned one.

During Christmas, the celebration of the Mass at the Manila Cathedral started with a long prelude of organ music and orchestral accompaniment of polkas, jigs and minuets while everybody promenaded around the building. Talking and smiling and bowing were a custom Hannaford found strange.

Even executions had a fiesta atmosphere. The procession would move from the jail to the Luneta at dawn, with cavalry and priests on foot or in carriages, a functionary wearing an apron and carrying the sacred banner of the church embroidered in black and gold, the prison officials and in an open *carromata* surrounded by soldiers the condemned man with a priest seated on either side exhorting him. The executioner walked by himself followed by some infantry with fixed bayonets.

Early on a crowd would have surrounded the raised platform where the garroting was to take place. Some came on foot, others in carriages, but both sexes, young and old, came arrayed in their Sunday best.

The executioner's job was to turn the screw handle. A moving piece would push forward against the victim's spine at the base of the neck and snap the spinal cord producing instantaneous death.

The executioners in Manila were ex-criminals who had been pardoned on condition that they would work at delivering the death blow.

There was a whole ceremony involved: First, a contingent of priests ascended the platform in advance of the condemned man, followed by the standard bearer. The victim would be fastened to a chair attached to the post and a white cloak thrown over his shoulder and a white hood over his head. Two priests would then hold up a crucifix and sprinkle holy water on him. The chief prison official would give the signal by waving a sword and the executioner would then give the condemned man the final screw (pun intended).

A doctor was around, too, to pronounce him dead. More prayers were read aloud and more holy water shaken over the corpse who would remain at his post till noon.

There were also public shootings at sunrise of captured insurgents on the seawall of the Luneta, while hundreds of spectators watched and the bands played.

Another time-honored custom were abuses connected to the courts. "They were simply rotten," according to Hannaford. Bribery was universal, and without it the best case was hopeless. No litigant could ever be sure of seeing his cause finally disposed of. It was likely to drag on indefinitely or if acted upon by some miracle of luck, to be reopened by some other judge who scented a fee in it.

Notwithstanding a previous acquittal, criminal charges were liable to be revived. A handsome present to the new judge was the only guarantee of safety.

Foreign merchants in Manila were accustomed to make almost any sacrifice rather than go to court and face years of delay and expenses. A loss they could measure, but not the fees.

Codes were so many that a contrary precedent might overturn a decision, no matter how clear the principle involved. Persons of means regarded law suits as a calamity, knowing the courts would keep proceedings grinding away as long as there was money in sight.

Hey, so what else is new?

(*From Adjutant E. Hannaford, "History & Description of the Picturesque Philippines," 1900.*)

The magic died

YOUNG BLOOD

Hazel B. Galang

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I REMEMBER the day the magic died. But I'd rather remember the days when it was still there.

Giselle was my cousin. I mean, she still is, but we're grown-ups now, or at least that's how society classifies us. We used to play together, especially during those timeless summer days some 14 years ago. There will never be summers like that again, those breathing spaces between grades in school.

The people who took care of us knew everything—our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. There was never a question left floating and unanswered, and we saw everything with a clarity that eludes me now. With our young minds, we dreamed of things that only existed in places where fairies were real and where dreams came true.

Two small girls, we played in that cramped space in the bodega, a place where nothing was impossible and where dream-like things could turn to reality. It was a world which could only accommodate our puppy Sparky, our doll Cieska and a few other things that knew how to enjoy a hot summer day. Our toys were simple and inexpensive, but our imagination made up for their inadequacy. The old rice sack filled with dried leaves served as our bed, and the old laundry basket became our new car. What fun we had taking turns pushing the basket as Giselle and I traveled around our world.

We had some fancy parties whenever we played *bahay-bahayan*. While Giselle baked extra-sweet chocolate cake in the oven (actually leftover *pan de sal* smeared with coco jam inside a shoebox), I got the wine (Sunny grape juice). *Bahay man namin ay munti, masaya naman.*

We would have long talks about our future. Giselle was going to become a doctor, and I was going to become the president of the Philippines, just like Cory Aquino. Giselle would discover a cure for polio and chicken pox, while I would make sure that the Philippines would rise up to become the greatest country in the world.

Quite a tall order for two girls, but we believed in each other. We would make our dreams come true.

One day, the unexpected happened. Cieska suffered a heart attack. Giselle and I weighed the advantages and disadvantages of making her go through a delicate operation. We finally decided to have a heart transplant, using a stone we found in the backyard to replace our baby doll's heart. Of course, the operation was a success!

In those days I was sure that whatever tomorrow may bring, anything and everything was possible. In our little world, life was stable and secure. Life was simple. Life was beautiful.

One game I will never forget was "Around the World." In this game we became treasure hunters seeking gold and riches. Our expeditions would bring us to the deserts of Saudi Arabia, the deep forests of Africa and the seas of the Pacific. In the twinkle of an eye, we would be transformed into rich businesswomen. We built miniature cities with street signs made out of popsicle sticks and scrap paper, and gasoline stations made from empty Chocolait cartons.

What little fuel it took to kindle the fire of our dreams. But now it takes so much to even just keep reality alive.

I remember the day the magic died, but until now I don't know how and why it vanished. Somehow, it just got lost between the pages of our Algebra or Physics textbooks. Or maybe it flew away with the wind when we experienced our first kiss. I'm not really sure.

That day, I went back to our bodega, to that cramped space where our world used to exist. I saw the old teacups, now dusty and mostly broken, just like our childhood dreams and fantasies. Somehow, the realities that we faced while growing up caused them to break and be gone forever.

Cieska, our doll, was dead. The place she used to occupy in our hearts is now occupied by bills, relationship problems and all the other worries adulthood brings.

I waited for the magic to return, but it never did. I sat there for a long time and even closed my eyes, willing the magic to come back. Nothing. Finally, I decided to go out into the real world again.

Closing the door of the bodega, I saw Sparky sitting in a corner, now with pups of her own. She, too, was no longer a child.

Things changed after that day. First slowly, then more swiftly. The basement bodega was soon used to store forgotten toys, outgrown clothes, old books, broken furniture and, maybe soon, wedding gowns.

Giselle and I don't see much of each other anymore. She emigrated to the United States, while I opted to stay here.

Things were very different when we saw each other again last year. Our wild, free laughter was replaced by awkward giggles. There was little play and more conversation—mostly about boys, relationship problems, fashion trends and the details of our lives. Gradually we had drifted into a new world, exciting, demanding, sometimes scary and always very real.

I never asked Giselle how the magic died for her. I didn't want to know.

Hazel B. Galang, 21, finished her BA Broadcast Communication at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

THEY SAID

Tainted judgment

"Imagine how many innocent people are in jail now and how many ruthless criminals are on the prowl."

—Dr. Ben Molino of the Medical Action Group, reacting to anomalies in the National Bureau of Investigation's medico-legal unit

Wanting attention

"I don't have a fabulous body. Neither do I have a fabulous face to protect, so it is probably because I'm wanting attention that I'm not afraid to wear trench coats under the scorching heat of the sun."

—TV talk show host Boy Abunda on his fashion sense

Hallucinations

"The prosecution can only wonder where accused Joseph Estrada is getting all these hallucinations."

—Special Prosecutors Dennis Villa-Ignacio and Rober Kallos, repudiating the new legal moves made by the new lawyer of the deposed president

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Roots of the Moro struggle

THE MOROS resorted to armed struggle because of the long period of oppression, exploitation, neglect and discrimination they suffered with their incorporation into the Philippine polity and other provocative incidents. This suggests that the struggle was not caused by the Moros, but by the unbearable conditions under which they are forced to live.

My studies show that their struggle is not caused by their personality, their culture or their social structure. The struggle was not caused by some inherent flaw in the Moro personality. It was not caused by an alleged Islamic culture of terrorism or a warrior religion. It was not caused by rivalries among Moro leaders. And it was not caused by a hunger for power among some young Moros or their passionate desire to grab political power from older leaders.

What precipitated the struggle are the Moros' sufferings and insecurities associated with their economic marginalization and destitution, political domination and incapacity, the inroads and constraints on their identity (which includes their faith, territory and culture), and the threats (consummated and potential) to their individual and collective existence or security. Other causes are their perception of the insincerity of the Philippine government toward them and their despair over the gloomy future awaiting them.

The above problematic conditions proceeded mainly from the various government policies, programs and activities involving the Moros since the beginning of their colonial experience.

—ABDUR RASHID SANTOS,
1850 M. Hizon St.,
Sta. Cruz, Manila and
ANTONIO FARHAN FLORDELIZA,
retired AFP general

Open debate on GMOs

WE have seen a lot of advertisements and news on Bt corn since the hunger strike of some NGO leaders opposing it and the Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) issue going through a wave of worldwide debates. The United States has failed to convince the European Union and Switzerland, Jordan, Zambia, Australia and many others.

The information presented in the Science/Health section of the INQUIRER last June 14 is a sign of desperation. They have every reason to be paranoid since the world has said no to GMOs at the recent G-8 summit held in Evian, France. Too much evidence has been found about its effects on human health, the environment and on altering agriculture.

Switzerland put a moratorium until 2010 as their farmers and consumers have called for a referendum to put an end to this GMO bio-invasion.

Let the pro-GMO people speak up and prove that it is safe and good for our farmers. They should have done an information campaign years ago and not kept silent until now. Let them bring the truth to the surface, after all, the future is organic and eco-agriculture with the conservation priorities to address poverty and environmental degradation.

We will be out of water in less than 20 years, it is predicted. The next war will be a war over water. We need water, clean air, good soil, protection of our forest and marine ecosystems and good farm-to-market roads to be free from poverty.

We are self-sufficient and independent, not having to worry about ecological disaster and the evils of GMOs. Be brave all of you who write and say your piece. Be brave and speak out now. Let us be Filipino first and protect our culture, heritage and environment for generations still to come.

—ANTONIO M. CLAPAROLS,
president, Ecological Society
of the Philippines,
53 Tamarind Rd., Forbes Park,
Makati City

Water everywhere, except in faucets

NEXT time you read or hear an ad glorifying the services of Manila Water, think again. In a blatant display of gross incompetence and lousy service, Manila Water cannot even provide the basic water requirements of selected service areas in Metro Manila. For instance, residents of Poblacion in the country's premiere business district of Makati, are continuously without water. Palma Street in Poblacion, Makati City, had no water for more than a week. Is this not a clear display of bad service or selective service, when just a few steps away the posh Rockwell Center flaunts its excess water supply through the liberal use of water on its manicured lawns?

The most maddening display of incompetence was seen during the recent typhoon that hit Metro Manila. While rain fell and floods inundated many Metro Manila communities, Palma Street was as dry as Ethiopia in its worst drought. Needless to say, the suffering endured by the residents of Palma Street only represents just a fraction of the actual number of people and households which Manila Water fails to serve.

This ineptness can only be matched by its Customer Service Department, which could not care less about service. In fact, complaints have been lodged with that department but no action has been taken. All kinds of excuses have been made. These range from low water pressure, shortage of water, small pipes to a man drowning in the water system. Too many excuses. No action.

Unless Noel David, who is in charge of the Makati district, wakes up and starts doing his job, Manila Water may not live up to its responsibilities as a public utility.

—WILFREDO BACAREZA JR.,
11-A Carmen Court
Condominium, Palma Street,
Poblacion, Makati City

New jobs, lost jobs in tuna industry

THIS is a reaction to the article "Tuna industry seen to generate 2,000 new jobs" by Aquiles Zonio, last June 17.

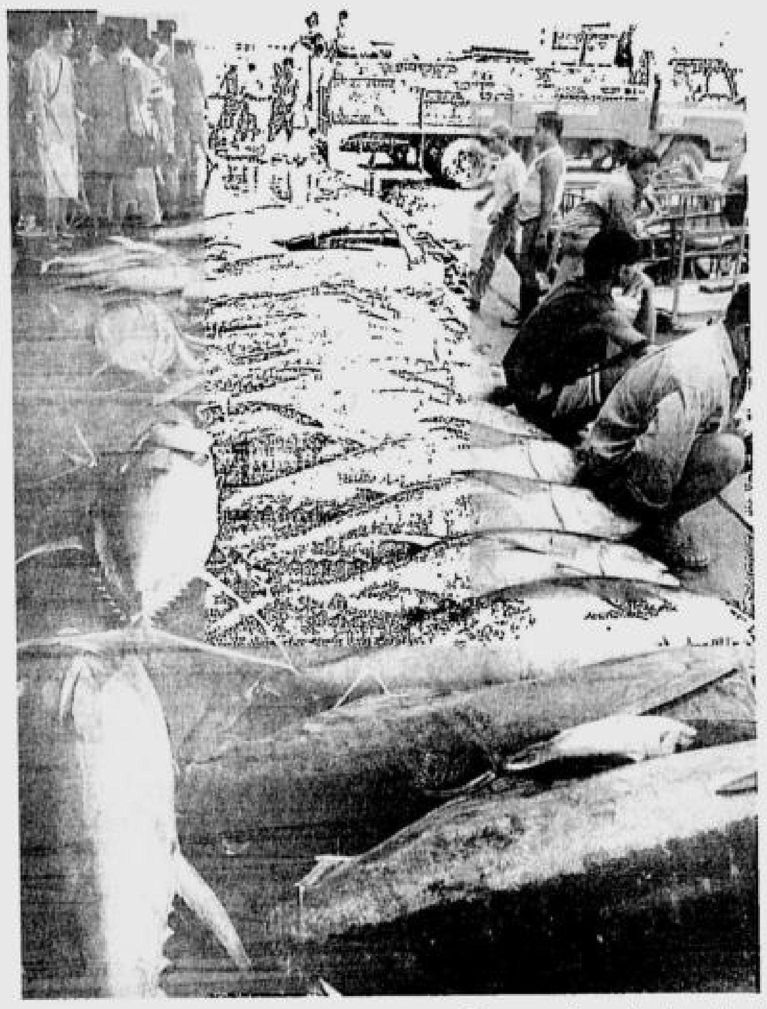
While the tuna canning industry is expected to generate 2,000 new jobs in the next six months as a result of tariff reduction imposed by the European Commission on canned tuna, an estimated 20,000 tuna handliners of South Cotabato, Sarangani and General Santos (Socsargen) are experiencing collateral damage brought about by fisheries trade liberalization.

Tuna handline fishing belongs to the sashimi tuna sub-sector of the industry. This involves the catching of mature, largely deep sea tuna (e.g. big eye and yellowfin) which are marketed whole to Japan while vacuum packed tuna, steaks and fillet are exported to the United States.

The other two sub-sectors of the tuna industry are traditional fishery which supplies small tuna species for the domestic market and the purse seine net fishery for surface tunas (e.g. skipjack and juvenile yellowfin) which are processed into canned tuna. This is the sector referred to in the article.

Handline fishing catches an average of 200-300 kg per boat as compared to 10 tons of small tuna caught by purse seiners. The Tambuyog Development Center, a non-government organization concerned with the negative effects of trade liberalization in the fisheries sector, questions the sustainability of purse seine net fishery as this catches juvenile fish which, if left to grow, could reach significant sizes qualified for the Japanese sashimi market.

As in other commercial fishing operations, profit and not sustainability, determines the type of fishing activity. If there's no more fish, companies can pack up and leave, taking their profits and investments with them while leaving workers unemployed. On the other hand, handline fishing is economical to operate but labor intensive and provides income to a large segment of the unemployed sector. Tuna handliners of Socsargen are composed of 20,000 direct fishers and 100,000 dependents. In 1999, a total of $18.1 million in revenues came from the export of sashimi grade tuna.



Tambuyog sponsored a press conference in General Santos City last May 29 where tuna handliners raised concerns that the policies of the government are attuned to obligations to the World Trade Organization.

The government's policy on transshipment has also legalized smuggling at the Davao Fish Port Complex. While Fisheries AO No. 195 regulates importation through accredited buyers, an amendment made by Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. last March allowed fishes not qualified for export to be sold to the institutional buyers. This system induces competition favorable to Taiwanese longliners who buy cheaper fuel in Indonesia.

In the long run, we may end up with more unemployed and a degraded fisheries resource base.

—ARSENIO N. TANCHULING,
executive director,
Tambuyog Development Center,
91 V. Luna Rd., Sikatuna Village,
Quezon City

A slap on the wrist

THE SIX-DAY suspension imposed on Willie Revillame and John Estrada by ABS-CBN for their coarse and vulgar jokes in "Masayang Tanghali Bayan" was a mere slap on the wrist.

It will be recalled that a few years ago, ABS-CBN suspended Revillame, Estrada and Randy Santiago for 20 days because of their crass jokes, vulgar behavior and their improper treatment of candidates in the "MTB" segment, "Calendar Girl."

Since Revillame and Estrada are recidivists, ABS-CBN should have meted a stiffer penalty to give them a lesson.

The "MTB" hosts resumed their dirty jokes for months, and they get only a six-day suspension? This is a joke.

And how did Randy Santiago escape suspension when he was in conspiracy with Revillame and Estrada in their highly questionable conduct? In fact, last March 15, the trio rendered a song, titled "Mr. Beejay," which referred to oral sex and was loaded with double meanings.

—BOY BLUE P. FILOMENO,
Philippine Alliance
Against Pornography,
San Jose del Monte City,
Bulacan

An enlightened view on sexuality

WE who have been working on the issue of women's sexual and reproductive rights cannot but take this opportunity to comment about the charges of sexual harassment against Bishop Teodoro Bacani.

The Catholic Church, sometimes speaking through Bishop Bacani, has castigated us repeatedly for our beliefs. We have advocated a more enlightened view that allows men and women to freely express their sexuality in conditions of equality, respect and safety. Such a view accepts sexuality as essentially good and sees its expression as a right. Thus, we have championed the right of all women regardless of their marital status, class, religion, social and familial circumstances to reproductive choices. We have therefore pushed for contraceptive and other services to ensure women's choices.

Similarly we have pushed for laws, policies and programs that protect women from abuse. This has included a call to allow women to leave marriages where they are neglected, unloved, violated and battered.

In these matters the Church has been confrontational and judgmental. We have been accused of encouraging immorality when we attempt to empower people by providing information and education about their bodies and reproduction. We have been called "baby killers" because of our efforts to assure contraceptive choice. We have been called anti-family when we advocate for the equal rights of the separated, the gay or lesbian person, the single parent to love, respect and dignity.

What the Church fails to see is that its own views of sexuality are the cause of the sexual oppression perpetrated by its priests. That its contempt for women's rights will inevitably produce the scandals we now see.

We wonder how many more scandals within the Church will make them review their views and practices.

Newspaper reports indicate that doubt and condemnation are being thrown at the accuser and the people who helped her. We should point out that the few facts we can ascertain are nonetheless consistent with the experience and research on sexual harassment. The offender is more likely to be a powerful male. The victim is usually in the perpetrator's employ and puts up with repeated provocation before complaining. Contrary to Bishop Bacani's assertions, misinterpretation and false accusations are very rare in this type of case.

In our disagreements with the Church, we have appealed to the principle of respect for a multiplicity of spiritual, religious, moral and ethical beliefs.

—SYLVIA ESTRADA-CLAUDIO, M.D.
chair, Linangan ng Kababaihan (Likhaan),
92 Times St., West Triangle Homes,
Quezon City

What Christianity is about

THIS country has very few practicing Christians and I think that the Church is partly to blame for it. I think that the Church has not done a good job in making people Bible literate.

The Christian religion is not only about being faithful to Church traditions, practices and obligations. It is about living in love and obedience to God. It is about keeping God's commandments. It is about doing good deeds to your fellow men.

This is clearly explained in the gospel of St. Matthew when Jesus said "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, take your inheritance, the kingdom is prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I was naked and you clothed me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will ask Him, "Lord when did we do this to you?" The King will reply, "I will tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

I hope that our learned leaders will realize that there is no salvation in what they are doing.

—VIRGILIO G. MEDINA,
Asian Mansion II,
Makati City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

PHILIPPINE PORTS
AUTHORITY
PORT DISTRICT OFFICE OF VISAYAS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Ports Authority through the Port District of Visayas invites interested bidders to submit Application to apply for eligibility, and subsequently to bid, if pre-qualified for the.

I.
A.1 Name of project — IMPROVEMENT OF BAYBAY PORT
PORT OF BAYBAY, LEYTE

B.1 Scope of Work
I General Expenses
II. Rehabilitation of RC Deck (9.0m x 156.0m)
II.A Demolition/Disposal Works (Area = 1404.0sq.m.)
II.B Reconstruction of New RC Pier (Area = 1,404.0sq m. or Vol. = 839.0 cu.m.)
II.C Installation of Mooring System (26pcs. - 25T-Tee Head)
III. Widening of Causeway by 9.0m (Area = 986.0 sq m. or Vol. =2,922 cu.m.)
Minor IV. Construction of Guardhouse Minor
V. Construction of Septic Vault Minor
Minor VI. Construction of Fence and Gate Minor
Major VII. Construction of Plantbox (106.0 ln m.) Minor
VIII. Installation of Street Lighting System (8 units - 6.0m Double Arm Street Post) Major
Major
IX. Construction of Covered Walk (136.0 ln.m.) Major
Major X. Provide Safety Program Minor

C.1 Contract Duration — 225 Calendar Days
D.1 Minimum Equipment Requirements:

1.0	1 unit	Air Compressor (250 cfm)	Owned/Leased
2.0	1 unit	Backhoe with Breaker (0.50 cu m.)	Owned/Leased
3.0	1 unit	Bar Bender	Owned
4.0	4 units	Bar Cutter	Owned
5.0	1 unit	Boom Truck (5T)	Owned
6.0	1 unit	Concrete Cutter	Owned
7.0	4 units	Concrete Vibrator	Owned
8.0	2 units	Cutting Outfit	Owned
9.0	2 units	Dump Truck (8.0 cu.m.)	Owned/Leased
10.0	1 unit	Electric Steel Cutter	Owned
11.0	4 units	One Bagger Concrete Mixer	Owned
12.0	2 units	Plate Compactor	Owned
13.0	1 unit	Pneumatic Jackhammer	Owned/Leased
14.0	1 unit	Road Grader, 135 HP	Owned/Leased
15.0	1 unit	Truck Mounted Crane (25T)	Owned/Leased
16.0	1 unit	ClampShell (0.50 cu.m.)	Owned/Leased
17.0	1 unit	Rock Crapple (0.50 cu.m.)	Owned/Leased
18.0	1 unit	Vibratory Roller	Owned/Leased
19.0	2 units	Welding Machine (400 amp) Engine Driven	Owned

E.1 Budget for the Contract — P 25,567,368.00
Source of Funding — PPA Corporate Fund
F.1 Required PCAB Registration & Classification — Medium "B" Port, Harbor & Offshore Engineering

Bid Documents shall be issued only to eligible licensed contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents of Ph. 3,000.00.

II.
A.2 Name of project — CONSTRUCTION OF RC PIER WITH COVERED WALK
PORT OF SIBULAN, NEGROS ORIENTAL

B.2 Scope of Work
I General Expenses Minor
II Casting & Driving of Two (2) units 18.0m RC Test Piles (36.0 ln m.) Minor
III Casting & Driving of 1,308m Regular RC Piles (450mm x 450mm) Major
IV Construction of 6.0m x 75.0m RC Pier Deck (Vol = 126.0 cu m.) Major
V. Construction of RC Beams (Vol. = 38.0 cu.m.) Minor
VI. Construction of RC Pile Cap (Vol. = 14.58 cu.m.) Minor
VII. Construction of RC Stair Landing and RC Curb (Vol. = 13.0 cu.m.) Minor
VIII Construction of Covered Walk (Lenght = 79.50m.) Major
IX Installation of 15T Mooring Cleats (12.0 pcs.) Minor
X Installation of Lighting System
XI Provide Safety Program Minor

C.2 Contract Duration — 265 Calendar Days
D.2 Minimum Equipment Requirements:

1.0	1 unit	2-T Drop Hammer	Owned/Leased
2.0	1 unit	35-T Diesel Hammer	Owned/Leased
3.0	1 unit	35-T Truck Mounted Crane	Owned/Leased
4.0	2 units	Bar Cutter	Owned
5.0	1 unit	Chain Saw	Owned
6.0	2 units	Concrete Vibrator	Owned
7.0	2 units	One Bagger Concrete Mixer	Owned
8.0	2 units	Welding Machine	Owned

E.2 Budget for the Contract — P 7,918,360.00
Source of Funding — PPA Corporate Fund
F.2 Required PCAB Registration & Classification — Medium "A" Port, Harbor & Offshore Engineering

Bid Documents shall be issued only to eligible licensed contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents of Ph. 2,000.00.

G. Experience:
Similar in nature and complexity with at least 50% of the approved budget for the Contract to be bid and 50% of the major items of work.
H. Cost of Pre-qualification or Eligibility Form — P 200.00
Place of Issuance — Philippine Ports Authority
Port District - Visayas
BAC Secretariat
CIP Complex, North Reclamation Area
Cebu City
I. Last day of Issuance of Pre-C Forms — July 04, 2003
J. Deadline of Submission of Accomplished Pre-C/Eligibility Forms — July 11, 2003

Only contractors classified and registered with the Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB) on Contractor's License and Registration Particulars will be issued Eligibility Forms. The Forms are available at the BAC Secretariat, CIP Complex, Ser

All particulars relative to the pre-qualification, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Provisions of E.O. 40.

Further information may be obtained from the following:
BAC Secretariat — Tel No (032) 232-3401
PPA Website — www.ppa.com.ph
www.cvis.net.ph/ppa

The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in the proposals received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the Philippine Ports Authority.

MANUEL T. GORME
Port District Manager
(PDI—June 21 & 28, 2003)

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US soldiers attacked again in Iraqi town

FALLUJAH, Iraq—US troops patrolling in Iraq have come under renewed attack, this time in the flashpoint town of Fallujah overnight, in the latest challenge to their efforts to crush remaining resistance in the country.

A US army officer in the town confirmed Friday that attackers fired rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs)—the resistance's weapon of choice—at Fallujah's government building and a nearby power plant overnight, but denied reports of US casualties.

Witnesses had said several US soldiers were wounded in the attack.

"Two RPGs were fired at the government office but they didn't hit anything. They missed their target. There were no casualties," Sgt. 1st Class Denis Molina told AFP, adding that US troops returned fire at the attackers.

"The rockets were fired from about 400 meters behind the government building where US troops were positioned," he added.

A power station near the government building was also hit at around the same time by a third rocket, Molina said, adding that US forces then carried out a search of the area, but found no bodies and made no arrests.

By early Friday, US troops had left the area around the power station—one of the two main plants supplying the town—where one transformer was working, partially restoring power after a night without electricity.

Molina said US forces detonated unspecified ammunition after the attack before pulling out of the area around the plant, to stop rounds being stolen or used against them. This was confirmed by workers at the power station.

The streets in Fallujah were calm Friday, with traffic flowing as usual, and US troops only in evidence around the government building.

The town, 50 km west of Baghdad, has often been a flashpoint since US troops shot dead at least 16 civilians during protests in late April.

The overnight attack followed another RPG strike just south of Baghdad on Thursday, in which the US military said one army medic was killed and two others were injured.

Tensions have flared in the capital over the slow return of basic services, with former Iraqi army soldiers warning they are ready to take up arms against the city's US occupiers if a dispute with the US administration is not settled by Monday.

The former soldiers are demanding the top US civil administrator, Paul Bremer, either pays up wages owed to them since the army was disbanded last month, or gives them their jobs back.

"If on Monday at noon, the Americans do not find a suitable solution to our tragic situation, we will take up arms," one of the protesters, Tahseen Ali Hussein, said.

A demonstration by the ex-soldiers degenerated into violent clashes Wednesday when US soldiers shot dead two of the protesters.

Sixteen US soldiers have been killed in targeted attacks since President George W. Bush declared the war in Iraq effectively over on May 1, according to an AFP count from US military statements.

Three of those were killed this week: one by a sniper, another in a drive-by shooting in Baghdad, the third in Thursday's rocket attack.

AFP

Australian caterer to feed troops in Iraq for $76M

SYDNEY—An Australian caterer has won a contract worth $76 million to feed US-led occupation forces in Iraq, Trade Minister Mark Vaile announced Friday.

The Morris Corp., working with a Kuwaiti joint venture partner, was one of five international companies subcontracted to feed the troops by US firm Kellogg Brown and Root.

Vaile said the Morris contract involved an initial commitment to cater for about 10,000 troops, with the company due to serve its first meals on July 1 to US and other coalition forces stationed around Tikrit, the home town of the fugitive former Iraqi ruler Saddam Hussein.

The Morris Corp. has already supplied UN missions in Cambodia, Somalia and East Timor and Vaile said it had good prospects of securing further contracts in Iraq.

AFP

Saddam probably alive, hiding in Iraq—NYT

WASHINGTON—Former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein is probably alive and hiding somewhere in Iraq, judging from intercepted communications among his supporters, The New York Times said Friday quoting US officials.

Besides the lack of physical evidence that he died in two US air strikes on Baghdad—on March 20 and April 7—during the war on Iraq, the officials believe Hussein is behind the surge of armed attacks against US forces.

"These guys are growing in resistance, and they're still being troublesome, and you have to ask what's motivating them," a defense official said, adding that recent intelligence reports indicated that Hussein and his inner circle were trying to garner support inside the country.

Up to now, most US officials have publicly stated not knowing whether Hussein is dead or alive, while assuring that, either way, he would soon be captured.

Intelligence analysts believe Saddam is hiding in Iraq since he would feel safer among his supporters than in a foreign country where he would be easier to locate by US intelligence, the daily said.

The whereabouts of Hussein's two sons Uday and Qusay also continue to baffle US intelligence, although some agents believe the eldest, Uday, may have been killed in the first US bombing that preceded the start of the US-led war to topple him.

Leading the search for Saddam is the covert US military organization known as Task Force 20, which it was recently disclosed also headed up the initial search in Iraq for alleged weapons of mass destruction, the Times said.

US forces were buoyed earlier this week by the capture of Saddam's closest aide, Abid Hamid Mahmud, the number four on the American most wanted list of former officials in the Iraqi government and military establishment.

AFP

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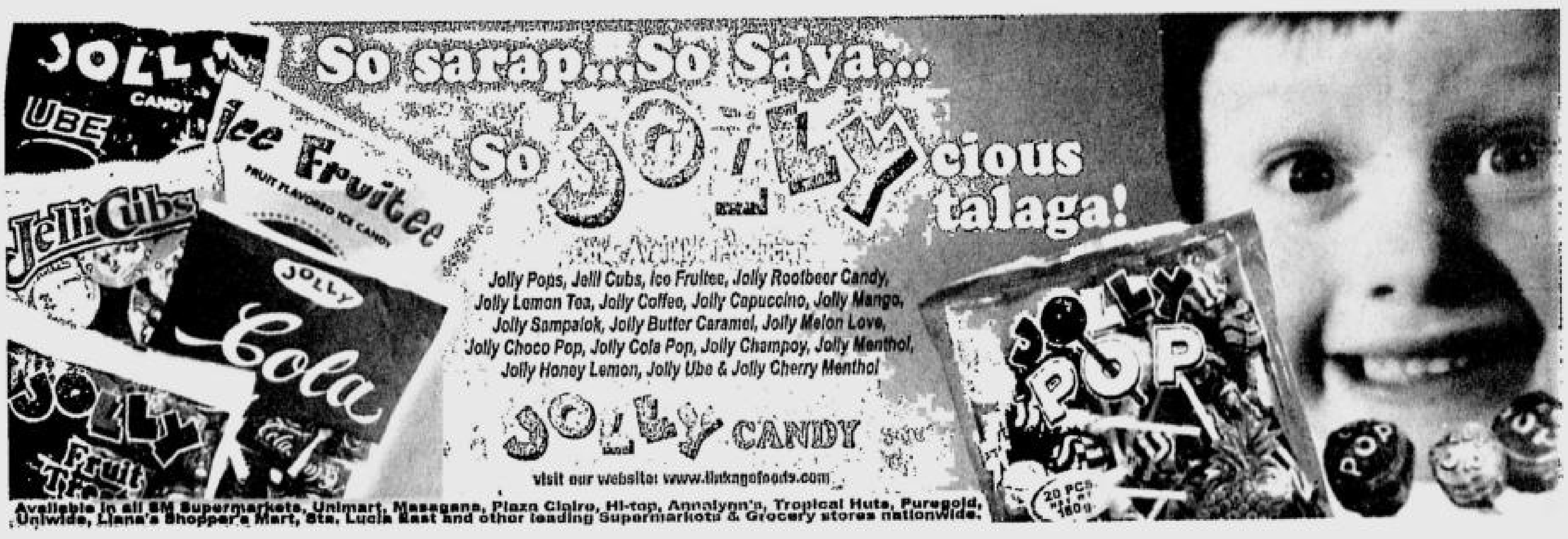

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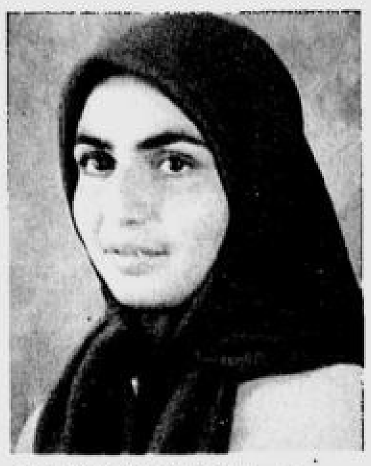
Bush picks Iran as new US post-Iraq priority



BURNING PROTEST–Iranian woman Meda Hassani, 24, poured gasoline on herself and set herself on fire outside the French Embassy in London June 18. Hassani is in hospital and her condition is described as serious. AP

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush, backed by stern words from the European Union and a key UN agency, has picked Iran as a new post-Iraq priority, insisting he will not tolerate Tehran's construction of a nuclear weapon.

But achieving that aim is a long shot and Bush has not outlined an explicit strategy for grappling with the long-standing Iranian nuclear issue, which has leaped to prominence in recent weeks among American foreign policy challenges.

Complicating the picture is growing anti-government unrest in the Islamic republic and questions about how much pressure the EU, a key trading partner, might exert in an effort to help persuade Tehran's to abandon its nuclear arms ambitions.

In his most robust rhetoric against Iran since declaring it an "axis of evil" state last year along with Iraq and North Korea, Bush on Wednesday urged the international community to make clear "we will not tolerate" construction of a nuclear weapon.

The comments could be seen as presaging possible military action, since Washington has accused Iran of an accelerating an already advanced nuclear program that threatens US and international security. But experts were perplexed.

"I never know what these guys (in the Bush administration) mean. They reduce complex issues to a slogan. I read (Bush's) comments as saying if Iran does build nuclear weapons, the US will take strenuous action. But I don't know from hearing him what timetable he's talking about or what the action would be," said physicist David Albright, president of the Institute for Science and International Security.

"It could mean different things to different people. It could mean we'll tolerate everything up to" production of a nuclear weapon, said Henry Sokolski, head of the Non-proliferation Policy Education Center.

If Bush is just drawing the line at Iran producing a nuclear weapon, this would essentially endorse the status quo, allowing Iran to continue nuclear activities such as enriching uranium that bring it to the brink of weapons capability.

"I think we want to draw the line sooner than the US did with Iraq and North Korea. I'm afraid the statement by the president leaves that open," Sokolski said.

Iran, a signer of the 1970 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty pledged to forswear atomic arms, is entitled to develop nuclear energy capability. But Washington says Tehran's exploited its NPT status to acquire technology that puts it within several years of producing weapons. Iran denies the charge.

While some hardliners advocate targeted strikes against Iranian nuclear facilities, Washington has not threatened force against Iran, a neighbor of Iraq where 150,000 American and British troops are trying to impose post-war stability.

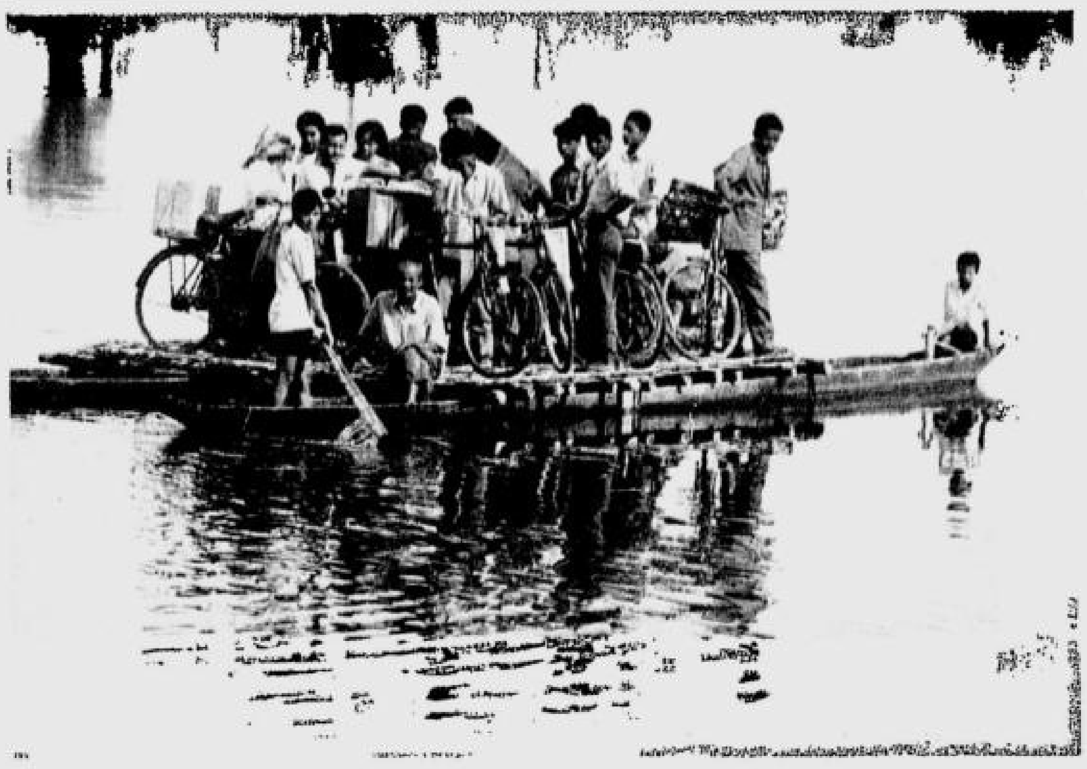
The United States is embarked upon a "more active, proactive approach" to proliferation that includes not just preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction but eliminating or rolling back such weapons from rogue states and extremist groups, Undersecretary of State John Bolton told the US Congress.

To that end, US officials are working with friends and allies on plans to stop and seize weapons-related transfers.

US comments have centered on using this tactic against North Korea, which may already have one or two nuclear weapons. But experts say it must be applied to Iran as well.

The Bush team, urged by Israel to make Iran rather than North Korea its primary post-Iraq focus, according to a senior US official, showed success this week in its campaign to rally international pressure on Iran.

The European Union (EU) agreed the use of force might be needed where diplomacy failed to address the weapons of mass destruction issue and it demanded Tehran's accept tougher UN inspections of its nuclear program if it wants an EU trade deal. *Reuters*



RAINED OUT

Flood victims are ferried to a safe place by an improvised boat in the district of Dhemaji, 462 km north of Guwahati, Assam in India June 20. Three hundred villages in five districts of Assam state were inundated by floodwaters that damaged houses and washed out roads, bridges and rail tracks. REUTERS

Encephalitis outbreak kills 18 kids, infects 211 in south China

BEIJING—Eighteen children have been killed by an outbreak of Japanese encephalitis that has infected 211 people in south China, health officials said Friday.

"The spread of the disease is province-wide," an official surnamed Wu from the disease control section of the Guangdong Bureau of Health said.

"So far 18 people have died among 211 people who have been infected. All the dead are children. The oldest was 14," he said.

Because of the flu-like symptoms of the virus—fever, vomiting and fatigue—many people did not see doctors when the disease surfaced earlier this month, instead trying to cure themselves with ordinary flu medicine, state press said.

The virus, which attacks the brain and the spinal chord, is mosquito-borne and usually erupts in rice-growing and pig-farming rural areas.

The fatality rate can be as high as 30 percent.

The World Health Organization said they were seeking more details from Chinese authorities but did not consider the outbreak an epidemic.

"We don't see this as an epidemic. It happens every year around this time," the WHO spokesperson in Beijing Bob Dietz said.

"It's not a pretty disease but it's a disease that comes and goes." Health bureau official Wu said the health authority and the provincial government were taking urgent measures to eliminate the disease.

On Thursday, an emergency health notice was issued requiring vaccination of all children aged six months to six years in the province. *AFP*

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No court martial for US pilots in Canadian slays

WASHINGTON—The F-16 pilot who mistakenly bombed and killed four Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan will not face court martial but non-judicial punishment instead, an air force general decided Thursday.

Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, commander of the US 8th Air Force at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, also announced that the pilot of a second F-16 that was present when the bomb was dropped will receive a letter of reprimand and allowed to retire.

"The charges preferred against Maj. Harry Schmidt will not be referred to trial by court martial," the air force said in a statement, referring to the pilot who dropped the bomb.

"General Carlson has instead initiated nonjudicial punishment proceedings under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice," it said.

Unless he demands a court-martial, Schmidt faces a maximum penalty of the loss of a half month's pay for two months, confinement to quarters for 30 days, restriction to a specific area for 60 days and a reprimand.

He and Maj. William Umbach, the other F-16 pilot, had been charged with involuntary man-slaughter and assault, carrying a maximum penalty of 64 years in prison.

Families of the victims of the bombing expressed disappointment, but not surprise.

"They've got pilots flying over Iraq right now, and I don't think they're going to undermine the morale of their own pilots by court martialing other ones for what I'm sure is seen in a large part of the American military as an accident of war," said Margaret Decaire, whose son, Brian, was one of the victims.

"We feel that Mr. Schmidt is not a pilot that should be flying at any time," Richard Leger, who lost his son, Marc, told reporters after the decision was announced.

"I was hoping to get their wings," said his wife, Claire. "I can't accept anything else. And I was hoping that the States could recognize that friendly fire is not acceptable. They keep saying it's part of war, but I don't accept that."

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien said, "If it was a mistake, it was a mistake. I'm not in a position to comment on the system of justice of another nation. It's for them to make their own decision."

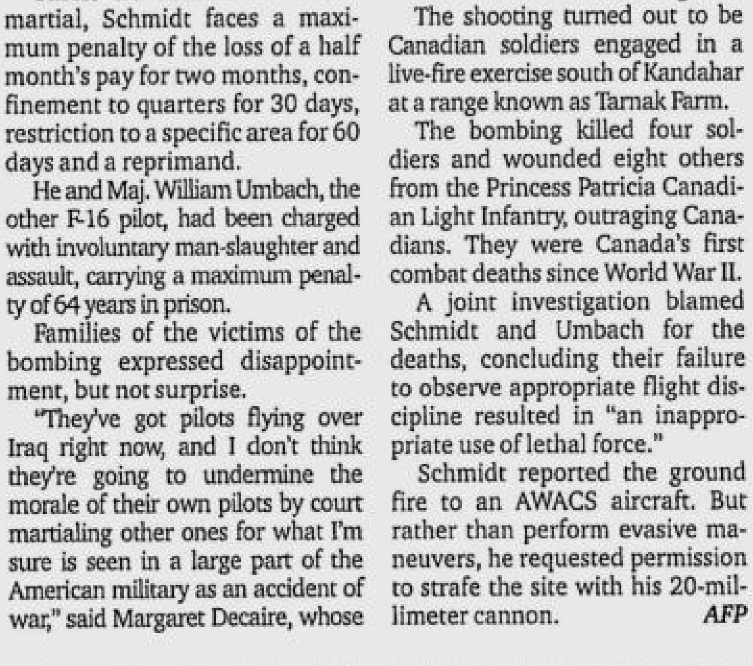
Schmidt, flying an F-16 fighter jet over Afghanistan on April 17 last year, dropped a 500-pound bomb on what he thought was the source of hostile ground fire. Umbach, his flight commander, observed from a second F-16 fighter.

The shooting turned out to be Canadian soldiers engaged in a live-fire exercise south of Kandahar at a range known as Tarnak Farm.

The bombing killed four soldiers and wounded eight others from the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry, outraging Canadians. They were Canada's first combat deaths since World War II.

A joint investigation blamed Schmidt and Umbach for the deaths, concluding their failure to observe appropriate flight discipline resulted in "an inappropriate use of lethal force."

Schmidt reported the ground fire to an AWACS aircraft. But rather than perform evasive maneuvers, he requested permission to strafe the site with his 20-millimeter cannon. *AFP*



WOMEN OF CAMBODIA

Covered with Khmer scarves called Krama, Cambodian women await transportation to go back to the province in central Phnom Penh June 20. As foreign ministers from 23 Asia-Pacific region exchanged heated talks on the region's security, life in the Cambodian capital keeps its relaxed pace. AP

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Pinoy couple dies in Riyadh fire

BACOLOD CITY—A Filipino couple died on Friday the 13th last week when fire broke out in their rented room in Wadi Laban, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The fatalities were identified as Pedro "Peter" Amion, 36, and a native of Escalante City, Negros Occidental and his wife, Cristy Altamirano-Amion of Laguna.

Overseas Workers Welfare Administrator Virgilio Angelo said the couple apparently forgot about the barbecue grill, which was still smoldering when they went to sleep.

"The embers fell and triggered the fire," he said. Cristy was trapped inside the burning house. Peter died later in a hospital.

Before he died, Angelo said Pedro was able to tell the Saudi police in the hospital how the fire started. The Saudi Civil Defense Office conducted a formal investigation into the incident, he said.

Angelo said Pedro was a salesman of the Family Food Corp. while Cristy was a staff nurse of the King Khalid Eye Specialist Hospital.

The couple has reportedly been working in Saudi Arabia for eight years. Their 2-year-old daughter Cristine was left in the care of an aunt in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental.

Their bodies were refrigerated at the Riyadh Medical Complex morgue, said Angelo.

The Owwa was working to bring their remains home and ensuring that their families received the benefits due them, he said.

Pedro's family here had also asked Negros Occidental Rep. Alfredo Maranon to help facilitate the return of his body.

"I have already made calls for the government to assist in the return of the remains of Pedro Amion," he earlier said.

In the case of Cristy, he added, the hospital would also assist in facilitating the return of her remains.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Cop chief behind 'jueteng'

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Central Mindanao police director Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor was identified as behind the proliferation of illegal numbers game in the entire region.

City Councilor Eduardo Leyson III, chair of the council's committee on peace and order and police matters, told the INQUIRER that he has been receiving complaints from barangay officials, illegal gambling operators and even from the police against Tor.

Leyson said his informants divulged that Tor, who replaced Supt. Nestor Sanares as regional police director in the first week of last month, had set a quota of P.7 million in protection money for the unhampered operation of illegal gambling in the city.

Leyson said the police and illegal gambling operators complained they could not meet such a big quota.

"I refused to believe but there were persistent reports about it. At first, I presumed the alleged quota of P.7 million was for the entire region but I was told it was for the city alone," he said.

But Tor dismissed the issue saying he was the target of a smear campaign because of his relentless drive against gambling.

"I have already submitted a comprehensive report about illegal gambling in the region to the provincial governors. You can ask them about it," he told the INQUIRER.

He said he has a standing order to field commanders to eliminate all forms of gambling in the region.

"Our accomplishments and apprehensions involving illegal gambling operations in the region were included in my report. I don't tolerate any forms of gambling within my command," Tor said.

In an earlier interview aired over Bombo Radyo, Tor hit his detractors and challenged them to "substantiate their claims."

He also urged his critics to get the names of policemen collecting money from gambling operators so he can immediately act on it.

"I have more than 4,000 policemen in the region and anybody can use the name of the police. It's better they get the name of policemen (using my name)," Tor said.

The illegal numbers game rampant in the city include, "Last-Two," "Last-Three" and "Last-Four." As the names suggest, these games are based on the last two, last three and last four winning number combination of the government-run lotto.

Leyson said the same informants had told him other forms of gambling like jueteng and masiao would soon be operating in the city through the blessings of the regional police director.

When Tor assumed the position, he brought along with him 30 police officials from the Bicol region, his previous area of assignment.

He replaced some sensitive positions at the police regional office, except the posts in-charge of personnel and community relations.

A reliable source from Koronadal City told the INQUIRER that Mayor Fernando Miguel was fuming when Tor replaced Supt. Danilo Posadas as city police director without informing the mayor.

The night after the relief of Posadas, jueteng and masiao operators reportedly rejoiced and started their operation.

The first jueteng draw was reportedly held inside a van on June 8 in Koronadal City. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Dagupan police chief in jueteng raps reassumes post

DAGUPAN CITY—Although it was not clear if he was absolved of the allegations of his alleged failure to stop jueteng operations, Supt. Noli Talino on Tuesday reassumed his post as city police chief.

Talino, together with Senior Supt. Arturo Cacdac, former Pangasinan police director, resigned from their posts on April 10 to pave way for an impartial investigation of their alleged failure to stop illegal gambling.

"Personally, I do not know what happened to the investigations by several bodies, but I assume that I was cleared and I feel vindicated after I reassumed office," Talino said during the turnover ceremony on Tuesday.

He took over from Supt. Nelson Vidal who led the city police for two months.

Senior Supt. Dominador Ventura, acting provincial police director, said he recommended Talino's reinstatement because "his accomplishments against the illegal numbers game offset his perceived" inability to stop jueteng operations in the city.

Ventura could not say whether Talino would merely complete his two-year term (a police officer's tour of duty usually lasts two years) or would start another term. Talino had served Dagupan for a year and eight months when he resigned.

Ventura said Cacdac had been promoted as deputy director of the Philippine National Police's aviation group two weeks ago.

Mayor Benjamin Lim said he had asked Talino to focus on the illegal drug problem, which he admitted was still prevalent in the city.

"There must be a social reform to give opportunities to the (jueteng bet collectors) and others involved in the illegal numbers game," Lim said, noting that jueteng could not be solved by police alone.

He proposed the legalization of jueteng to give jobs to those involved in it.

Lim said bet collectors would be given commission, like the system used in the sale of sweepstakes tickets.

"I think with the present set-up, only 30 to 40 percent of total bets go to the winners and 60 percent go to the operators and their expenses. If legalized, 60 percent must go to the winners, 30 percent to operations and 10 percent to local governments and the police," Lim said.

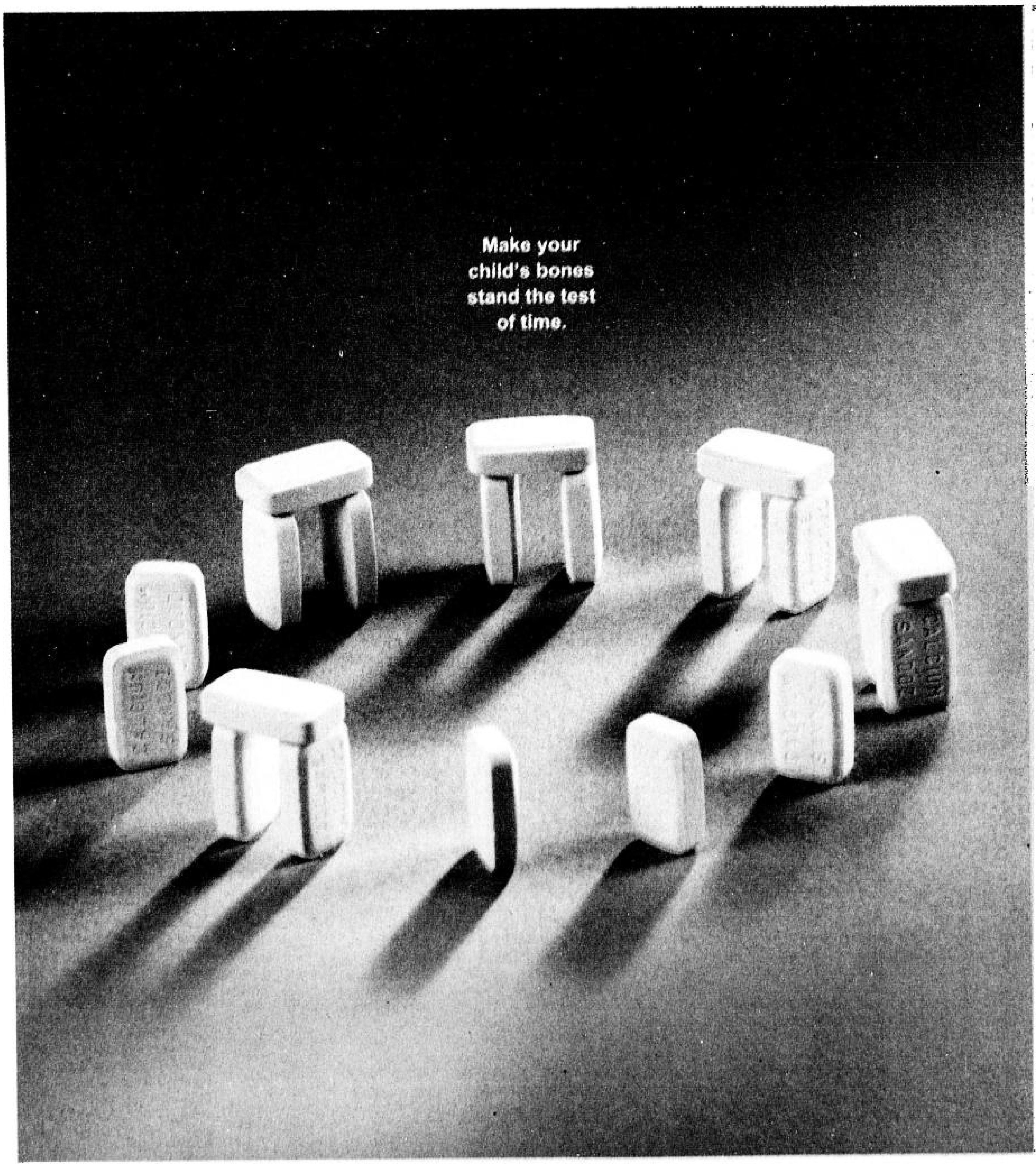
He said local governments and the President have "social obligations," but while the President is allowed to get social funds from gambling operations, local officials are not.

"If the President can get hundreds of millions of pesos from gambling source through the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) for her social funds, why can't local officials get theirs from gambling sources, too? What makes her special?" Lim asked.

In Pampanga, the chief security officer of presidential son and Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo has been relieved as police officer-in-charge of Mabalacat town.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pampanga police director, ordered the relief of Senior Supt. Sunny Magpayo on Monday upon the request of Mayor Marino Morales.

Morales asked for Magpayo's relief after GMA-7's "Imbestigador" program exposed the rampant drug trade in Barangay Dau. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, with a report from Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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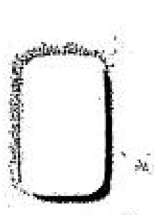

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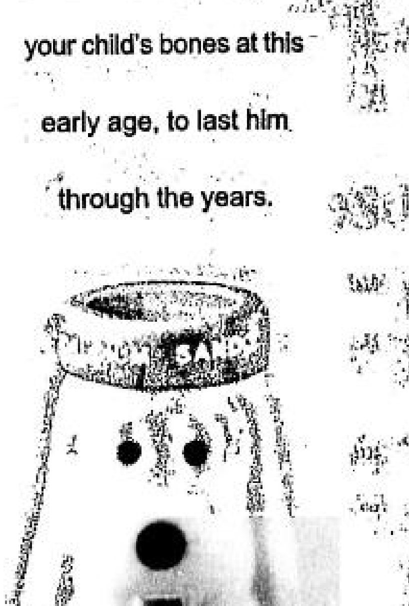

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GMA orders dredging of Pampanga River

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—President Macapagal-Arroyo has earmarked P100 million for the massive dredging of the heavily silted Guagua-Pasac River and has ordered public works engineers to complete the job in one month.

"The President wants all the lahar materials along the Guagua-Pasac be dredged so that water could freely flow toward the Manila Bay. She directed us to expedite the project, to finish it within 30 days," Josefino Rigor, Central Luzon director of the Department of Public Works and Highways, said.

Ms Macapagal visited Pampanga unannounced on Thursday to "see for herself" reports that the flood problem here had been reduced compared to previous years because of various engineering measures, Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo said.

Rigor said DPWH engineers would immediately work overtime to meet the one-month deadline set by the President.

On Wednesday, local leaders led by Gov. Manuel Lapid and Pampanga Mayors League president Marino Morales, and national government officials who hail from this province met at a restaurant here to sign a manifesto urging Ms Macapagal "to reconsider her decision not to run for President in 2004."

They said in a manifesto that she "owes it to both our country and people to sustain the momentum" the country has achieved so far under her leadership.

They said the leaders and people of Pampanga "believe in her leadership, sense of duty, and work ethic." They said the "selflessness and statesmanship" are evident in her earlier decision not to run in 2004.

But they said her continued service to Filipinos as their leader is still needed.

"We are humbly requesting her to run for president in 2004. She should continue her programs designed to uplift the lives of the Filipinos," Assistant Secretary Rene Maglangque of the Department of Transportation and Communications said during the meeting. .

Lapid said Ms Macapagal is still the best choice for president in 2004. Her efforts against poverty, graft and corruption, and crimes are only among the achievements she had accomplished in a very short time, he said.

Morales said the mayors of Pampanga have been saddened by Ms Macapagal's announcement last December that she would no longer run.

"The President has already proven her willingness to sacrifice her political career just for the sake of the country. But she is still needed by the people. We hope that she would reconsider," he added. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

₱30M lost to 'Egay'

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Tropical storm "Egay" destroyed close to P30 million worth of crops, fish cages and infrastructure when it unleashed its wrath in Eastern Visayas last week.

Reports of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the Department of Agriculture showed Egay destroyed roads and bridges worth P17.55 million and P11.59 million worth of fish cages and crops.

Blanche Gobenciong of the OCD in Eastern Visayas said Biliran sustained the most damage in infrastructure, which reached about P8 million.

About P5.3 million worth of infrastructure was destroyed in Northern Samar and P3.5 million in Samar, said Gobenciong.

She placed the damage to infrastructure in Leyte at about P105,000.

The Department of Public Works and Highways is conducting repairs on the bridges and roads damaged by the typhoon, said Gobenciong.

The DA office in Eastern Visayas reported that about P11.59 million worth of fishery products and crops were destroyed at the height of Egay.

Crita Aninon of the DA Eastern Visayas monitoring and planning section, said floods destroyed P10.5 million worth of fish cages in Biliran and Samar provinces.

Cop major shoots dead village dad

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A police major, who identified himself as an aide of Central Mindanao police director Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor, shot to death a barangay official after an altercation inside a karaoke bar here on Thursday.

Chief Insp. Richard Dagdag Garcia also claimed that he was connected with the intelligence unit of the Central Mindanao police.

Garcia was later arrested by elements of the National Anti-Crime Task Force (Nactaf).

The victim, Robinsito Mejia, a councilor of Barangay Dadiangas North, died of a bullet wound in the face while on his way to the hospital.

City Councilor Franklin Gacal Jr. told the INQUIRER that the incident stemmed from a verbal tussle between Kagawad Dodong Acharon of Barangay Dadiangas West and Cpl. Cesar Garcia of the Army's Special Forces based in Davao City. The soldier is the younger brother of the suspect.

Acharon, who was then drinking with Gacal, Mejia and several other people, was reportedly irked when the Army Corporal crossed in the middle of their table on his way out and when he came back.

Acharon stood up and pushed the younger Garcia. An altercation then ensued between them.

Gacal said he ushered Acharon to the toilet to pacify him while Mejia was left with the soldier.

But an argument between Mejia and Garcia broke out when the former tried to pacify the latter.

Punch

The city councilor said he saw the soldier punching Mejia, who crumpled on his chair.

"He (Mejia) tried to stand up but Richard arrived and suddenly shot him in the face," Gacal said.

The Garcia brothers tried to escape but Nactaf elements managed to collar them.

Richard introduced himself as a police major and an aide of the regional director.

He was brought to the Lagao police station for detention but policemen there were reportedly hesitant to lock him up.

They put him in jail only when reporters arrived and asked why the suspect was not locked up.

Reporters were also puzzled when the desk officer of the Lagao police did not mention the police officer's name when he first recorded the shooting incident in the blotter.

Only after Sr. Supt. Terry Bucsit, Central Mindanao police intelligence chief, arrived was a new entry created in the blotter, now bearing Garcia's name. However, in all the entries, there was no reference to him as a police officer.

Tor denied knowing Garcia. "I don't have an aide by that name. I don't know him," he said.

In Davao City, a policeman was arrested after shooting to death a 43-year-old man resting at the Rizal Park fronting the City Hall on Thursday. SPO2 Norberto Dizon of the City Mobile Group was identified as the attacker of Dixon Dabon.

Witnesses said Dizon, who was drunk at that time, forcibly woke up the victim. Failing to wake up the victim, Dizon went to the nearby CMG headquarters. When he went out of the station, he was carrying a 12-gauge shotgun. Dizon shot the victim twice. *Aquiles Zonio with a report by Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

BIGGEST HAUL

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A policeman counts 4,000 pieces of fake VCDs, which were seized during a raid in a garage in Quezon Hill, Baguio City last Wednesday. The Videogram Regulatory Board says this is so far their biggest haul of pirated VCDs in the North.

Mayor suspended for cutting off power supply

MAASIN CITY—A mayor of a town in Southern Leyte was suspended for six months after she was found guilty of oppression and misconduct for cutting off the power supply of the municipal trial court (MTC).

William Paler, director of the Department of Interior and Local Government in Eastern Visayas (DILG-8), served the suspension order against Liloan Mayor Zenaida Maamo on Tuesday.

But the suspension order issued by the Office of the Ombudsman-Visayas was served to her son Marlou Maamo, a physician, because the DILG officials could not find her either in her office or in her house on the town proper.

Paler was with DILG legal counsel Mike Tizon and DILG provincial director Antonio Cardoza.

Cardoza told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that they had to serve the order on Tuesday or else it would have lapsed.

The order dated May 15 was received by the DILG on June 10. The Office of the Ombudsman-Visayas told DILG to implement the order within five working days upon its receipt.

The case stemmed from an administrative case for grave abuse of authority filed by MTC clerk of court Rebecca Pol Merka against Maamo for disconnecting the electric supply of the MTC in November last year.

Merka delivered a speech in a flag ceremony on Nov. 12 last year, pointing out that Maamo had no authority over her department.

She also threatened to file a libel case against government employees who signed the complaint of electioneering filed by Maamo against her.

Merka's husband Mario lost when he ran for municipal councilor in the 2001 elections under the ticket of Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo, a known political opponent of Maamo.

Maamo, who was present at that time, took the microphone and told Merka not to discuss personal issues during flag ceremony.

Maamo, accompanied by the municipal electrician, then disconnected the MTC's electrical connection, saying the municipal government could no longer afford to continue paying the MTC's electric bills.

On March 30, the Ombudsman-Visayas found Maamo guilty of oppression and misconduct. The mayor filed a motion for reconsideration on April 23 but was denied seven days later.

This prompted Maamo to file a petition for injunction before the Court of Appeals to stop the Ombudsman-Visayas from implementing the suspension order.

In her petition, Maamo maintained that the Ombudsman-Visayas erred in finding her guilty because her decision to cut off the power supply was "purely executive in nature" and was proper considering that the "municipal court has its own budget to shoulder its expenses."

She said the municipal building, which housed the MTC, was owned by the municipality of Liloan and that the town was paying for the MTC's electric bill. *Janie Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau*

SEAIR flies Cagayan de Oro-Davao-Cebu routes

CAGAYAN DE ORO—Domestic carrier South East Asian Airlines (SEAIR) said it has invested P70 million to expand operations in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Starting today, the airline flies the triangulated route of Cebu-Cagayan de Oro-Davao and Davao-Cagayan de Oro-Cebu. The inauguration of the Cagayan de Oro station coincided with President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to the city.

Iren Dornier, chair, South East Asian Airlines said, "a total of over P2 billion has been committed for business expansion nationwide in the next three years for the acquisition of more aircraft to accommodate the increased demand for air transportation."

With the new route the airline aims to help increase business and tourism growth in Cebu, Cagayan de Oro and Davao, said Nikos Gitsis, director, South East Asian Airlines.

This is in support of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon's 'Visit Philippines Year 2003' campaign efforts.

The airline offers flights to other far-flung destinations in the Visayas and Mindanao such as Bantayan, Camiguin, Cotabato, Siargao, Tandag, Jolo and Tawi-Tawi, with Cebu and Zamboanga positioned as southern hubs.

Rizalistas: No grudge for Gloria if she breaks vow

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ARAYAT, Pampanga—The leader of a cult venerating Dr. Jose Rizal as a god said he and the Rizalistas here would not harbor any grudge against President Macapagal-Arroyo should she change her mind about not running in 2004.

"We will respect her as long as she is sincere," said Esting Malang, who heads the cult based at the Señor Ignacio Coronado Jose Protacio Rizal Mahal na Ina Birheng Sinukwan Universal Shrine in Barangay San Juan Bano at the foothills of Mt. Arayat here.

The one-hectare compound ringed by tall bamboo fences gathered more than 1,000 Rizalistas, all dressed in white clothes, by noon on Thursday. Some came all the way from Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Laguna and Quezon.

Speaking to the INQUIRER after the ceremony held in observance of Rizal's 142nd birth anniversary, Malang said they would not also take Ms Macapagal's reversal of her plan as an "offense" against the Amang Infinito (Rizal).

The Rizalistas of Arayat had also reversed their stand. In December, they challenged the President to "better fulfill her promise" not to run because a turnaround might "discredit" Rizal whose 106th death anniversary on Dec. 30, 2002 she chose to announce her political plan.

Then, they regarded the President's choice of the occasion as an "honor" to Rizal. Other presidents, Malang noted, had not given Rizal that high esteem. Her sticking to her words, he added then, would also earn respect for the hero.

Explaining their stance now, he said in Filipino: "People do change their mind. If Gloria decides to run, we will understand her because the Amang Infinito preaches respect for people who hold views, principles and religions that differ from what we believe in."

According to him, their only yardstick for Ms Macapagal was sincerity and service for the welfare of the Filipino people.

"*Pagmamahal sa kapwa at kapakanan ng bayan, 'yan ang dapat nasa puso niya* (Love for people and country, that should be in her heart)," he said of what he expected from the President.

Following Rizal's "strong adherence" to independence, Malang said Ms Macapagal should not allow herself to be a "tool" of the interests of the United States.

The moral reforms that Rizal pushed and which the President was also advocating should be realized, he added.

At the concrete grounds where numerous Philippine flags were displayed, the Rizalistas on Thursday sang songs composed by the Mahal na Inang Birheng Sinukwan, the woman they believed was Rizal's female incarnate.

The melodies were joyous for the most part; the lyrics articulating of nationalism and common good of all.

Before the sanctuary holding the bust and portraits of Rizal, they swayed to the music, dancing either to thank for the graces or to seek favors.

After the mid-day prayers comprised largely of singing and bowing before the sanctuary, they retreated to small huts to do a silent reading and contemplation of Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo, two of the hero's novels that helped spark the 1898 Revolution.

Even as they lived in seclusion or mingled in the material world, Malang said the Rizalistas try as much to understand society.

Their attitude, however, is that everything in the world has been "programmed" or destined and that salvation is only possible if people follow Rizal's teachings of solidarity and justice, he said.

ROUNDUP

Rice, sugar seized

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Soldiers seized at least two truckloads of smuggled imported rice and sugar during an operation in Barangay Recodo on Tuesday. Southern Command chief Major General Roy Kyamko yesterday said the contraband, worth about P800,000, were confiscated from Hadji Aper Samidar of Jolo, Sulu. Kyamko said the smuggled goods, consisting of 200 25-kilo sack of imported rice and 600 sacks of sugar would be turned over to the Bureau of Customs. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Illegal fish seized

LEGAZPI CITY—About P35 million worth of illegally caught fish were seized by members of the Philippine Navy and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources last week in the waters off Pasacao town and nearby areas in Camarines Sur. The fish were seized from three ferry boats—MM King, owned by Emmanuel Alfelor of Iriga City and operated by Rosalito Resol of Claveria, Masbate; Don Mariano, owned and operated by Cesar Bulawan of Tabaco City; and Herry, operated by Gabriel Huab of Balatan, Camarines Sur. Capt. Willy Ilustre of Naval Task Force 31, said the boats' operators violated the Fisheries Law: they operated without license and fished with the use of active gear in municipal waters. Charges were readied against the persons involved. *Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Navy vs hot logs

LEGAZPI CITY—The Philippine Navy Southern Luzon Command based said it is launching Oplan illegal fishing and logging to help curb the rampant illegal fishing and illegal transport of hot logs in coastal areas in the Bicol region. Lt. Edgardo Guevara, unit operations officer, said the program would first focus along Albay Gulf. He stressed that some of fish sanctuaries in Albay are also deteriorating due to continuous illegal fishing along Albay Gulf. *Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Organics show

PRODUCTS and services that promote a naturally healthy lifestyle and the conservation of a clean and green environment are featured in a trade fair at the Philippine Trade Training Center in Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The fair dubbed Bio-search, opened on Wednesday and runs up to Sunday, according to a news release. On exhibit are organically grown fresh produce and processed food, nutraceuticals, herbal medicines, natural personal care products, and fitness equipment and accessories. Also featured are special events, teach-ins and video presentations, and informative fora designed to enrich one's knowledge for a happy, healthy living. Nutraceuticals, which include herbs, vitamins and minerals, are an estimated $38.5 billion industry.

INQUIRER Visayas

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Power hopes flicker in Eastern Samar

By Cyrain Cabuenas
Borongan, Eastern Samar

THERE is nothing romantic about dinner by candlelight, if it happens often. Cable TVs, karaokes, even phones and Internet cafés no longer entertain when the power is off every now and then.

For some three months now, brownouts and power interruptions have plagued Eastern Samar, and the people are no longer amused.

One housewife said she used to have a well-stocked fridge for her big family, but the perennial power outages have forced her to buy canned goods instead, almost everyday.

Hitting the beach

"It's so frustrating," teachers Darina Padit and Corazon Bagalay lamented. "We could no longer keep up with the news and our favorite soap operas."

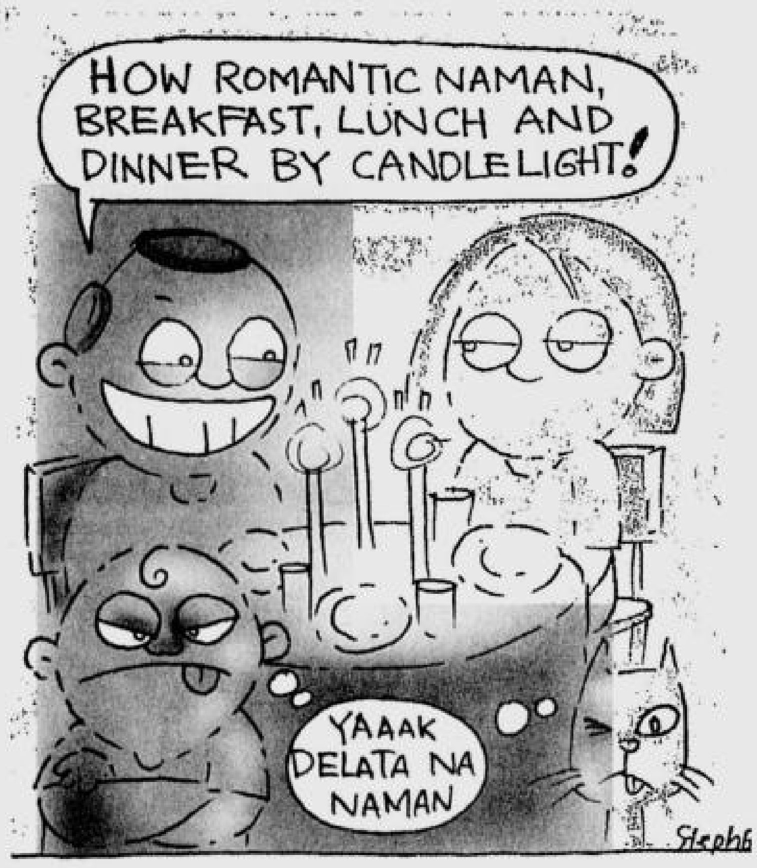
Since only a handful could afford generators, many people learn to cope privately by hitting the beach and spending time in idle conversation outside their homes. If luck intervenes, young and old alike would shout with relief every time power comes back.

Last March, power interruptions occurred 27 times in eight days. In April, power outages happened 27 times in 10 days. An unofficial report showed 18 incidents of brownouts in May. In some days, power was interrupted two to eight times, lasting half an hour to nine hours.

Power source

The entire province is supplied with electricity by the Eastern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Esamelco). The firm started operations in the capital town of Borongan on Sept. 7, 1980. All the 23 municipalities are now reached by the cooperative, and 44 percent of them enjoy electricity.

Esamelco draws power from the Tongonan Geothermal Plant in Leyte. Power is delivered by the National Power Corp. (Napocor) through a 133.28-km, 138-kV transmission line to Buray, Wright Samar. From Buray, a 60-km, 69-kV line delivers power to the Taft substation and another 48 km and 55 km of 69-kV line deliver power to the Cabong, Borongan and Buenavista substations, respectively.


HOW ROMANTIC NAMAN, BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER BY CANDLELIGHT!
YAAAK DELATA NA NAMAN

Esamelco distributes power through its three substations at 7.62-13.2-kV voltage.

Aside from the government officials, Esamelco general manager Nerio T. Aberia Jr., who is always at the receiving end of consumer complaints, can hardly do anything to stem the rising discontent.

Time and again, Aberia airs his side. through announcements and reports—to no avail.

"Until now, people don't understand or simply don't want to accept the fact that brownouts can't be avoided. Who wants brownouts, anyway? They have put our co-op's image in a bad light and have affected our collections."

The culprit

Aberia said that although there was load shedding in some municipalities because of one damaged power transformer in Taft substation, most of the power outages were caused by the dilapidated poles of the Napocor and tripping on its transmission lines.

The wooden poles were erected in 1980 and no timber, however hard, could last more than 20 years. Unless replaced with steel ones, power outages will always be a perennial problem.

Since Esamelco is an end-client of Napocor, any tripping and faults along the transmission lines affect power delivery, as temporary and permanent repairs last one to four hours.

Moreover, he said, these outages had also contributed to Esamelco's losses in revenue. Napocor-caused outages in 1999 reached 660.23 hours equivalent to a revenue loss of about P6.4 million. In 2000, the outages reached 944.65 hours or a revenue loss of P9.8 million.

In 2001, only 256.8 hours of outages or a revenue loss of P1.7 million was recorded. But the Napocor-caused outages last year increased again to 603.05 hours, or a loss of about P7.6 million.

"Our cooperative is in hand-to-mouth existence because the generating and transmission companies [have] obliged us to pay 100 percent, but our consumers have a different idea. They don't pay their dues on time as a reaction to these brownouts," Aberia said.

Solution

A feasible solution is the proposed construction of the Santa Rita-General Macarthur 69-kV single circuit steel tower transmission lines, which will loop the power from the Bagolibas substation in Samar. If this is implemented, Eastern Samar will have two sources of electricity, and brownouts will be reduced.

Since Saturday morning, most municipalities have been losing electricity due to another Napocor transmission line fault in Buray, Wright Samar. Up to now, the whole province is in blackout since electricity has not yet been restored.

The Esamelco management has already called the attention of Napocor for the rehabilitation. It has also sought the help of Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan Jr. and Gov. Clotilde Japson-Salazar for a more reliable power supply.

50 Ways to Celebrate JUNE

31
STARTING
21 June
You just can't get enough of them talaga!
Tuloy-tuloy na ang kuwento kahit Sabado.
At kung hindi mo na-umpisahan o gusto mong
balik-balikan, nasa weekend mornings na rin!
7 DAYS A WEEK NA!
METEOR GARDEN
Monday to Friday before "TV Patrol"
Saturday before "Magandang Gabi, Bayan"
METEOR GARDEN
REWIND
Saturday & Sunday • 11:30 AM

32
21 June
Sa wakas, magkaka-alaman na
ng true feelings for each other
sina Javy at Gwyneth.
TRUE LOVE NA!
BERKS
Today • 5:00 PM

34
21 June
SHARON EXPOSED!
Mabubuking na ng barkada
ang tunay na trabaho ni Sharon.
NEW TIME!
BUTTERCUP
Tonight at 9:00

33
21 June
ARRIBERTDEY! Bash #2 for our debutante!
Reunion ni CAMILLE PRATS
with her "Marinella" co-stars
SHAINA MAGDAYAO,
SERENA DALRYMPLE at RIO LOCSIN.
NEW TIME!
ARRIBA! ARRIBA!
Tonight at 8:00

35
22 June
Dahil 50 years na ang TV at No. 1 tayo sa comedy,
limampung kapamilya sa pagpapasaya
ang lulusob! Launch rin ng
HIMIG HANDOG LOVE SONGS 2003,
now on its 2nd year of chartbustin' love hits!
NEW TIME!
A.S.A.P. MANIA
Sunday after "Meteor Garden Rewind"

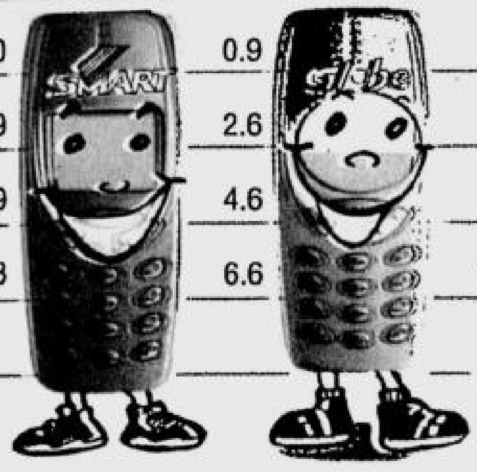
Dahil 50 years na ang Philippine television, araw-araw may sorpresang hatid
ang mga kapamilya mo sa ABS-CBN!

35 and still counting. Patindi nang patindi talaga...
so keep watching!

50 YEARS ABS-CBN TELEVISION
SINCE 1953

One in 3 Filipinos uses cell phones, says survey

CELL PHONE SUBSCRIBERS (in millions)



Year	Smart	Globe	Total
1999	1.0	0.9	1.9
2000	2.9	2.6	5.5
2001	4.9	4.6	9.5
2002	6.8	6.6	13.4

SOURCES: NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION FOR 1999-2001; SMART AND GLOBE ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2002

From page A1

devices.

The March 29 to April 12 survey of 1,200 people found at least 17 percent of the poorest sector also had mobile phones. The cheapest handsets in the market cost about P2,000.

Out of the total, 96 percent use pre-paid lines and this preference, according to the poll results, does not "significantly vary across localities and socio-economic classes.

At least 94 percent of users often use them to send "text," or short message service (SMS) notes, to their friends and relatives, it said.

Filipinos also upheld their reputation as the most active "text messagers" in the world, with seven out of 10 of the SMS users saying they send as many as 10 messages a day, Pulse Asia said.

Another 13 percent send between 11 to 20 messages a day.

But despite widespread use of SMS throughout the country, the survey firm said that 21 percent of users from the Visayas region don't send text messages at all. It was the highest reported non-use of SMS in the country. The survey firm did not say why.

On text message content, 57 percent of respondents said they usually sent text messages concerning family or relatives while 52 percent sent greetings.

This was followed by jokes which were sent by 31 percent of the respondents, a higher figure than news about work or school-related activities which was pegged at 25 percent.

"The relative prominence of sending jokes is an interesting, albeit not totally surprising outcome... It seems that despite difficult times, Filipinos still find time to make others laugh," the poll firm said.

The rich, it also noted, are just likely to send jokes as the poor.

"A good laugh may just be what Filipinos need during these times, and texting is another way to spread it around," Pulse Asia concluded.

With an AFP report

Ebdane admits he'll miss target on kidnappings

From page A1

EBDANE

have made are protected, we have renewed the target-hardening efforts through seminar-workshops on community security, awareness and action on KFR," Ebdane said in his speech.

He said that while the PNP had neutralized most of the targets, kidnapping for ransom would be committed as long as there were moneyed victims and groups with the "intent and capability" to abduct them.

A ranking PNP official directly involved in the fight against kidnapping backed Ebdane's position, saying imposing deadlines was anything but effective.

"Even if you neutralize the core of a group, you can't stop the remaining members from putting up their own gangs," said the official, who is part of the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response team, the PNP unit primarily assigned to go after kidnappers.

"What we need is a consistent campaign against kidnapping, not one that's motivated by fear of reprisal from the President," the official told the INQUIRER.

Winning the battle

But Ebdane thinks the PNP is winning the battle against street crimes, as shown by the 4-percent decrease in the number of reported incidents during the first quarter of the year.

He said that from January to May, there were 1,421 fewer incidents than the 36,153 recorded by police during the same period last year.

Ebdane said the crime volume in Region 9 (Western Mindanao) dropped by 36.4 percent, Region 8 (Eastern Visayas) by 20 percent, and Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) by 25 percent.

"Index crimes are down by almost 6 percent with the most significant decreases seen in homicide cases (down by 15 percent), physical injury (8 percent), and theft (7 percent)," he reported.

Cops were also better at solving crimes during the first quarter, as shown by the 3-percent improvement in crime solution efficiency, he noted.

Ebdane also said the number of gangs had been substantially reduced—by 30.6 percent—with the arrest of 244 of the 796 gangs identified last year.

"The experience in the [past] year has shown that through united action, we get the answers and we deliver results," he said.

Kahit ano, kahit paano!
SAGOT KO ANG PADALA MO!

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Barbers pins down Ping: He's criminally liable

From page A1

litical ends by including a 'national figure.'" Why can't (Corpus) declare categorically that he was referring to me?" Lacson said.

Escalation

Barbers' statement about Lacson's criminal liability came at the end of a long day in which his comments escalated from guarded to categorical.

First, in a phone call from Batangas City, he urged both the administration and opposition camps to refrain from turning the renewed anti-drug drive into another "political circus."

"Drug abuse is a very alarming problem that involves both sides of the political fence. We should stop politicking," he told the INQUIRER.

He then refused to comment on Lacson's accusation that the Palace was targeting him in its anti-drug drive by reviving allegations about his involvement in narco-politics.

"Senator Lacson was not referring to me (but to Corpus), so I need not react," he had said.

He emphasized that during an interview yesterday morning over dzMM's "Dos por Dos," he only mentioned Lacson when asked about the status of Senate Committee Report 66.

"I was referring to the committee report. I said that the Senate joint committees have recommended to the Department of Justice to pursue investigations on the (kidnapping and drug charges hurled against Lacson)."

But after Lacson expressed doubts about Barbers' real motives—"I just hope that the reason for Sen. Barbers' wanting to leave the Senate was not for the P1-billion budget (allocated by the President for the anti-drug campaign), but rather for the success of the anti-drug campaign"—he charged back.

"Maybe it's him. Maybe he's the one after the P1 billion," Barbers said.

"That's the problem (with the opposition)—every time we want to help, they would inject politics. They would accuse us of politicking," Barbers said. He claimed it was Lacson, not the administration, who was actually engaged in politicking.

Chinese connection

By evening, Barbers was no longer in a mood to be indirect.

He cited an instance when the consul general of China wrote a letter to Lacson, who was then national police chief and head of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

The letter, Barbers said, disclosed the names of police officers connected with the Drug Triad. But Lacson, instead of acting on the tip, allegedly forwarded the letter to the policemen involved.

"Administratively, he is then liable for neglect of duty as chief of the PAOCTF for his failure to contain the proliferation of criminal activities," Barbers said.

He pointed out that the report was signed by Arroyo. "Senator Arroyo is a good and a straight lawyer. He studied the recommendations very well. His reputation precedes him, and he will never allow the Senate to come out with this report in the absence of concrete proof," he added.

He maintained that the report had not been affected by the retraction of former witness Angelo "Ador" Mawanay because his testimony had not been "factored in" the report.

According to Barbers, the report was backed up by the testimonies of ex-narcotics double agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong, civilian agent Remus Garganera and other police officers summoned during the inquiry.

"We have voluminous documents corroborated by so many witnesses," he said.

Bipartisan support

Opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon agreed in part with Barbers, saying the anti-drug campaign "deserves ... bipartisan support."

Politics should be taken out of this campaign to arrest this "serious national problem," said Biazon, who was Armed Forces chief of staff during the Aquino administration.

"Injecting partisan political motives in this campaign is only going to hamper the police operations and judicial processes that could eliminate this social menace," said Biazon.

Biazon told reporters the challenge for the President now was "to pursue this campaign very clearly without making herself vulnerable to charges of partisan political motives."

He said it was important that the administration refrain from insinuating that high officials, especially from the opposition, were being monitored for possible involvement in drug trafficking.

Otherwise, the Palace should expect charges and accusations of politicking.

Biazon said he was against the move to allow Barbers to direct the anti-drug operations without first resigning as senator.

"How can a legislator perform an executive function unless there is a new definition of what is a (anti-drug) czar?" said Biazon.

"It cannot be done," said Biazon, objecting to Ms Macapagal's order to PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido Jr. to receive operational instructions from Barbers.

Lacson's challenge

Lacson challenged the Philippine National Police and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency to match the record set by the PNP under his watch. Lacson said that the PNP was able to arrest more than 37,000 drug pushers during his 14-month stint as PNP chief starting in November 1999.

"They keep talking about narco-politics but they don't have any evidence. And they are only using it for purposes of political propaganda," he said.

In Malacañang, the President's spokesperson again denied that a police raid on a security agency owned by a brother of Lacson's was meant to derail the opposition senator's presidential candidacy.

"There's no political motivation whatsoever. As you very well know, the President is a non-candidate," Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a briefing.

Bunye also stressed that Barbers was not being formally appointed as anti-drug czar. He said Barbers would exercise "oversight powers" over PDEA in his capacity as chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs.

"Mr. Avenido was actually instructed to make a courtesy call on the senator," Bunye said.

Lina's stance

Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. said he was not keen on looking into Lacson's alleged involvement in drug trafficking which first surfaced in 2001.

"The Senate itself has already conducted a thorough investigation and we cannot preempt the investigation. Let the Senate release its findings," he said in a press conference at Camp Crame yesterday.

In Bacolor, Pampanga, the President took the anti-drug campaign down to the barangay level. Last Thursday, Ms Macapagal ordered Mayor Romeo Dungca to check reports about the existence of a shabu laboratory in the lahar-buried town.

Summoning Dungca and then asking the media to briefly leave the house in nearby Guagua town where she held a consultation with local officials on Pampanga's flooding problem, she talked to the mayor in private.

In the meeting, which took less than 10 minutes, Dungca said the President voiced concern about the alleged shabu laboratory in Bacolor. *With reports from Christine Avendano, Juliet Javellana, Martin Marfil, Christian Esguerra; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; AFP*

'We can trace root of our drug problems to China'

By Carlito Pablo

BREAK the Chinese connection.

Lakas Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri yesterday suggested that the government put "diplomatic pressure" on China to stem the illegal drugs flow into the country.

"We can trace the root of our drug problems all the way to the Great Wall," said Zubiri, vice chair of the House committee on illegal drugs.

Citing data submitted to the committee by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Zubiri noted that at least 60 percent of shabu, currently the substance preferred by drug abusers, being pushed on the streets come from China.

Of the total 2.9 tons of shabu confiscated by authorities from 1998 to 2001, 64 percent were seized from Chinese nationals, Zubiri said.

Zubiri said that of the 295 foreigners arrested for drug trafficking in the country from 1998 to 2002, some 204 were from mainland China.

Zubiri also noted that most, if not all, "technicians" in raided shabu laboratories or those who prepared shabu from liquid raw material were also Chinese nationals.

"China has become the country's Colombia," he said. "Like many of the things Filipinos buy, shabu is a made-in-China product."

Zubiri said a "combination of diplomatic pressure, good intelligence and closing gaps in the country's porous borders will stop the entry of shabu into the country."

He said daily street interdictions of shabu dealings will hardly make a dent on the supply of shabu "if the pipeline of shabu that stretches all the way from China will continue to flow."

"But if you stop the flotilla of drug ships, if you stop the entry of ingredients in making shabu, if you stop importing people who make them, then you diminish the supply of the banned drug and you price it out of reach of ordinary folks," he said.

LTO drug tests practically useless, say experts

From page A1

med-tech, said I was negative for methamphetamine (shabu) and tetrahydrocannabinol (marijuana).

I asked why I was not bodily searched before entering the lavatory. A staff member replied that they were "good judges" of the people they should be on the lookout for. So far, he said, they had caught about five clients switching urine samples inside the restroom. Besides, he said, they trusted the med-tech to know right away if the urine was not "warm" by merely holding the cup.

Laboratory tests at the National Bureau of Investigation assess the sample for pH and specific gravity. To prevent a patient from using the water in the toilet bowl for dilution, some laboratories even dye the toilet water blue.

To prevent substitution of another person's urine (or even that of a dog), a watcher is supposed to accompany the patient to the toilet. "We will even check the temperature of the urine to be sure that it was freshly voided and not brought from home," said Dr. Idabel Pagulayan of the NBI.

To prevent switching, NBI marshals can accompany the urine sample. Also, samples are numerically coded so the laboratory personnel do not know whose urine they are testing. The "chain of custody" requires that the samples be sealed and that whoever handles it (collector, courier, lab personnel) should sign the custody form. The sample is never out of the direct custody of the signatory unless kept in a secure refrigerator.

The whole story

Dr. Lynn Panganiban, head of the UP National Poison Control and Information Service, said urine samples alone don't tell the whole story. In fact, urine drug tests should be evaluated in the light of the patient's medical history.

"We have patients (at the UP lab) who (test) negative but are actually drug dependent. There are signs that only doctors, particularly the clinical toxicologists, would be able to detect," Panganiban said.

Interpretation of tests, she emphasized, is "very sensitive." Results must be correlated with other manifestations, such as those observed in the subjects' behavior (neurological and psychiatric) and their physical attributes.

Substance abusers also know when they should stop taking their drugs to be considered "clean" at the time of the urine test.

"Some substances are flushed out within 48 hours. Some drugs stay in the system for two weeks, even for four weeks," Panganiban said.

Dr. Esperanza Cabral-Lim, a pharmacologist-cardiologist and former chair of the UP Department of Pharmacology, said a substance like methamphetamine can be found in urine usually up to three days, sometimes up to six days. This substance, she said, can be found in hair up to 30 days.

Drug users often opt to abstain, and help hasten their "detoxification" by drinking diuretics or taking bicarbonates, such as Alka Seltzer, to speed up the absorption of the banned substances in the body.

False positives

Taking the results of urine tests alone outside of their context is also dangerous in untrained hands. Prohibited drugs have similar chemical structures to other legal drugs. Thus, "false positives" in tests results come up. Subjects who are not illegal substance abusers but may have taken painkillers such as ibuprofen the night before could end up testing positive for marijuana.

Cough medicine, asthma drugs, and antibiotics are other drugs that cross-react in tests and produce a false positive result for marijuana use. (The Bureau of Food and Drugs, however, has certified that only anti-obesity and epilepsy drugs contained certain amounts of methamphetamine in the country, making a false positive result for shabu highly unlikely.)

Old reliable

But the urine test is still a very informative sample, provided that the interpreter of the result is qualified, and if he or she takes into consideration the history of the patient, said toxicologist Dr. Nelia Maramba, professor emeritus of the UP Department of Pharmacology.

Dr. Benjamin P. Reyes of the Department of Health said urine tests were still reliable provided two steps were taken: screening and confirmation. "Screening is not definitive. This would have to be confirmed in a confirmatory laboratory."

Maramba said interpretation of laboratory results should be done only by trained toxicologists.

Reyes recounted one report describing a testing center using tin cans for a urine container. Another center, without med-techs, tasked a clerk to examine urine specimens.

Last year, LTO chief Roberto Lastimoso said when the rules and regulations were made to implement the drug testing procedures, only marijuana and shabu were targeted. The thinking then was public utility drivers would not be able to afford other drugs such as cocaine and Ecstasy. Thus, the over 1,000 screening and 15 confirmatory testing laboratories nationwide can detect only two drugs: shabu and marijuana.

But the more accurate and comprehensive equipment—known as the GCMS (Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry)—is limited in supply. There are only four in Metro Manila, and one each with the Philippine National Police, the Dangerous Drugs Board and the National Bureau of Investigation.

With a report from Anna Bondoc, contributor

No Vatican ruling yet on Bacani case, says Church

From page A1

new diocese of Novaliches because the Vatican has not yet appointed a replacement, said Reuter, who also heads the Catholic Church's National Mass Media Office.

Franco returned to Manila exactly a week ago after a brief vacation in Rome, where he was believed to have submitted his report on the complaint brought against Bacani by his secretary of five years. The 34-year-old woman has since quit her job.

"Bacani's is a very complex case. I don't think Rome will leap into a decision just like that ... Rome is very, very careful in the investigation of facts before saying anything," Reuter told the INQUIRER in a phone interview late Thursday.

Contrary to speculation that Bacani's fate was sealed, Reuter said that as far as he knew, Franco did not bring back the Pope's decision with him.

He said it would be "unusual" for the Nunciature to withhold a major announcement, unless the Pope's decision was not simply a matter of yes or no.

No resignation

Reuter said the Nunciature was feeling "very bad" about reports indicating that Bacani had filed his resignation and that the Pope had accepted it.

"There is nothing certain except that the Nuncio had spoken with Bacani and the woman," Reuter stressed, adding:

"It's not a secret. We will give this out to the papers if the Pope has a decision."

The procedure dictates that the Nuncio gather all information relevant to the complaint, including personally meeting with the parties involved and witnesses, Reuter said.

The Nunciature then makes a report and submits it to the Vatican, which will deliberate on the evidence and make a decision.

According to Reuter, the Pope usually makes his announcement at noon in Rome, but not before releasing his judgment to the Nuncio.

The Nunciature will then release the story to the National Mass Media Office for release in the country concerned. The bishop concerned will also be advised.

Philippine media have been waiting for news from the Nunciature since Friday night last week.

Bacani left for the United States early this month, at the height of the scandal triggered by what he himself described in a letter as "inappropriate" behavior.

He was to visit his ailing mother and undergo a medical checkup in the course of a three-week vacation.

Bacani's ex-secretary, who first sought help from the militant women's group Gabriela, is now in the custody of religious superiors. She is undergoing psychotherapy.

Sloppy cops blamed for rash of acquittals

By Philip Tubeza

CHIEF State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño yesterday blamed policemen's sloppy work for the acquittal of many drug suspects in court.

"I can speculate that most of the grounds for acquittal are technical—like, for example, the manner of arrest, the manner they implement the search warrant—and that affects the credibility of the arresting officer and the investigators," said Zuño, who heads the country's prosecutors.

He said judges dismiss drug cases because the "technical" mistakes that Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency investigators make undermine their credibility in court.

It doesn't help that PDEA members are usually the "main witnesses" in drug cases.

"The bottom line here is the credibility of the witnesses who normally come from PDEA. And if their evidence is not enough, what can we do?" Zuño asked.

"I'm willing to have a meeting with PDEA. We'll try to review the decisions of the court. If our prosecutors committed the mistakes, we'll try to deliberate on these points. But if (the prosecutor's) presentation was really good and the (insufficient) evidence from PDEA was presented, we can't do anything," he added.

He said policemen's sloppy work was a common observation among defense lawyers.

'Samson test' ...

From page A1

done abroad but is not commonly available locally," said Dr. Idabel Pagulayan, chief of forensic chemistry at the National Bureau of Investigation.

Ingested drugs circulate all over the body via the bloodstream. The blood provides the nourishment for the developing hair follicle. Traces of drugs thus remain in the core of the hair shaft as the hair follicle grows. Numerous drugs can be recovered from the hair, including marijuana, opiates, cocaine, methamphetamines, even Viagra.

Chronic drug use can be detected from hair samples months or even years after intake—depending on how often you cut your hair. Most commercial test kits guarantee accurate recovery for up to 90 days. However, hair testing cannot detect recent drug use (less than 3 days) since it is dependent on hair growth.

But despite its widespread use, the procedure is still not accepted by the International Olympic Committee.

About 50 strands of hair are needed for the test. This may sound like a lot, but it's not enough to cause a bald spot, since the human head has more than 100,000 strands of hair, on the average. For those who are completely bald—or who deliberately shave themselves to try to avoid detection, body hair from the armpit, chest, or one's private parts can also be tested.

Just like a urine sample, a hair sample also undergoes screening using a radioimmunoassay procedure. And confirmation can be done through gas chromatography and mass spectrometry (GC/MS).

Hair testing analysis is most useful in detecting a pattern of drug abuse. It can also monitor abstinence and compliance with a drug rehabilitation program.

Within the medical community, however, there is an ongoing debate whether ethnicity and hair color can affect test results. A study of 38 cocaine users was conducted at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto in 2001. Black hair showed more cocaine use per milligram in admitted consumption than either blonde or brown hair.

There are also concerns regarding bleaching of hair. A study published in the journal "Forensic Science International" in January 2000 from Luxembourg showed that bleaching had decreased the amounts of cocaine and opiates recovered as compared to unbleached hair from the same person.

The hairy lesson: the person's cosmetic history should also be taken into consideration.

Anna York P. Bondoc is a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine and a practicing internist at St. Luke's Medical Center and Cardinal Santos Medical Center.

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METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

NBI doctor lashes out at accuser

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation medico-legal officer who is under investigation for extortion yesterday vowed to get back at his accuser for allegedly framing him.

"I will sue (Dr. Lenette Chan) for moral damages and work for the cancellation of her medical license," said Dr. Anthony Jet Castro of the NBI.

Chan had complained to NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco that NBI medico-legal head Dr. Maximo Reyes had demanded money from her to clear her of possible liability in the death of her patient, Alma Victoria.

Chan had said Castro was the one who had arranged the payoff.

Victoria died at the Dagupan Doctors Villaflor Medical Hospital in Pangasinan six days after Chan performed a Cesarean section on her at the Holy Child Hospital in Urdaneta City.

Castro, an ophthalmologist, also said he would file libel charges against newspapers for publishing stories that he described as "biased."

He told reporters that he would be resigning from the NBI, which he joined in August last year, because he "could not bear working in an organization where employees destroy each other when they should be protecting each other."

"I cannot bear this job anymore," Castro said in Binmaley, Pangasinan.

NBI officials said Reyes had told Chan to go to his office in Manila so they could settle the case.

Following orders from Wycoco, NBI Dagupan chief Ricardo Pangan and Urdaneta City police head Supt. Raul Petrasanta, laid a trap for the suspects.

Last Thursday, Reyes was arrested in his office at the NBI headquarters in Manila after he received P200,000 in marked money. Castro was also arrested in the same operation.

Castro told reporters he was shocked, saying he could not imagine his colleagues at NBI Dagupan would destroy his name.

"I thought they were my friends," Castro said. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

LATE SPORTS

Fran lifts TNT past Alaska

***GAMES TOMORROW** (Araneta Coliseum)*
4:00 p.m.— SLR vs Coke
6:30 p.m.—TnT vs Alaska

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PATRICK Fran provided the electricity for Talk N Text in the last few seconds of regulation and then again in overtime as the Phone Pals beat the Alaska Aces, 115-109, last night in the brownout-hit Game 1 of their PBA Samsung All-Filipino Cup best-of-five semifinals series at the Philsports Arena.

Fran's trey made it 112-104 with 25 seconds to go in the extra period, completing his heroics that began when he sent the game into overtime with a three-pointer, 4 seconds to go in regulation. A brownout caused by the heavy downpour delayed the game for 45 minutes.

Fran completed an assist from Donbel Belano to hit the triple that dragged the Aces into overtime at 100-all.

The Aces let victory slip from their hands. They were leading 98-92 with 13 seconds to go but blew it.

In the second game, Coca Cola dominated Sta. Lucia Realty, 85-70, for a 1-0 lead in its own best-of-five semifinal series.

URBAN COMMANDOS
During a drill at the national police headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City, members of the elite urban commando unit of the National Capital Region Police Office show off their mettle in foiling a bank robbery in progress. JOAN BONDOC

Lawmen hit Quiapo drug lair, seize P2M in shabu

By Christian Esguerra

THE CAMPAIGN against drug trafficking yielded its first big catch Thursday evening when policemen seized P2 million worth of shabu and arrested a Chinese woman in Quiapo, Manila.

Members of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency refused to identify the suspect pending the arrest of other members of the drug syndicate.

More than a kilo of high-grade shabu was recovered from the woman's place during the raid, a ranking PDEA official told the INQUIRER.

"She's no ordinary drug pusher," said the official who refused to be named. "Her group has direct links with the Hong Kong Triad."

After receiving tips about the suspect's alleged involvement in illegal drugs, PDEA officers grew even more suspicious when they discovered that she had at least P1 million in her bank account. The suspect had initially introduced herself as a cook at a Chinese restaurant in Manila, the PDEA official said.

During interrogation, the woman revealed the whereabouts of the other members of the drug ring, the source said.

The official said PDEA operatives conducted a raid somewhere in Manila yesterday but he refused to reveal the results of the operation.

With the arrest of the Chinese woman, PDEA hoped to douse criticism that the government's three-month campaign against illegal drugs would not result in the arrest of big-time narcotics peddlers and their influential protectors.

Before the Quiapo raid, the PDEA and the Dangerous Drugs Board had only come up with a total of 73 small-time pushers and users rounded up in different parts of Metro Manila on the second day of the ambitious campaign.

The arrests were followed up by the capture of Leonardo Lim, 32, said to be a notorious drug pusher in Pasay City. He yielded 80 grams of shabu worth P160,000, authorities said.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr., head of the DDB, had vowed to neutralize at least 62 drug rings and 15,000 pushers by September.

NPD chief: Not enough time to wipe out drugs

By Tina Santos and Tarra Quismundo

NORTHERN Police District Office director chief Supt. Marcelino Franco Jr. yesterday said that the Philippine National Police might not meet President Macapagal-Arroyo's three-month deadline to wipe out drug syndicates in the country.

"Maybe not total eradication (of drug syndicates), but definitely, we could place a dent (on the operations) of drug syndicates," Franco said.

But the police official said he had already ordered his men to redouble their efforts in going after drug pushers and users.

"We have intensified our campaign against illegal drugs," Franco told the INQUIRER. "In fact, we have arrested 10 suspected pushers in separate operations in Camanava since Thursday."

Live-in couple Christopher Morales, 27, and Racquel Hao, 26, of Tirona Street in Bagong Barrio, were caught in the act of selling P500 worth of shabu last Thursday, police said. The couple is among the city's top 10 most wanted drug pushers.

Yesterday, Semour Tujan, 43, who is from the same neighborhood as Morales and Hao, was arrested for selling shabu on Bulacan Street and 10th Avenue.

Two minors were also turned over to the Caloocan Drug Enforcement Unit after they were caught with marijuana in Bagong Barrio last Thursday.

Aiko, Jomari back to being strangers

By Amy Remo

ACTRESS and Quezon City Councilor Aiko Melendez is now the ex-wife of actor Jomari Yllana.

The Quezon City Regional Trial Court yesterday granted Melendez's petition to annul her marriage with Yllana on the grounds of psychological incapacity to fulfill his marital obligations.

The couple waited for more than a year for their marriage to be annulled.

Judge Aberdriego Adre of Branch 88 awarded custody of the couple's 5-year-old son to Melendez.

Yllana will be allowed weekly visits to his son during reasonable hours of the day.

In March last year, Melendez, through her counsel, Robert Diokno Jr., filed a petition asking the court to nullify her marriage with Yllana, allegedly due to his womanizing and unusual behavior.

Melendez and Yllana's whirlwind romance started in 1995 during the filming of a movie in Palawan.

After a year of an on-and-off relationship, they decided to live together.

On Sept. 7, 1998, Melendez gave birth to their son and, on Dec. 15, 1998, the couple got married in a civil ceremony before Bulacan Municipal Mayor Eduardo Erilla.

But Melendez said in her petition that her marriage with Yllana, was most unhappy, difficult and frustrating.

She also claimed that Yllana had continued his philandering ways and had engaged in several extra-marital affairs during their marriage.

In her testimony, Melendez also confirmed Yllana's rumored relationship with another actress.

YLLANA

MELENDEZ

ARA Mina

Ara, Jay bag top acting plums in Manila filmfest

By Marinel Cruz

MANILA Film Festival Best Actress Ara Mina on Thursday said all her hard work in Joel Lamangan's "Huling Birhen sa Lupa" has paid off as she accepted her second acting award.

The sexy star bagged the top acting plum for her role as Lorena, a young woman forced to sell her body and engage in other illegal activities to earn money for the medicine of her sickly mother.

She won her first best actress award at the 2002 Metro Manila Film Festival for her role as the rebellious Richelle, the character in the Chinoy epic "Mano Po," also directed by Lamangan.

Ara Mina dedicated her latest acting award to her "sister" Maui Taylor, her costar in "Huling Birhen sa Lupa," and to her mother who she said was disappointed in her when she was making the movie.

"I hardly had the time to go home, and my mom was disappointed with me," she said. "Look at what I got for my hard work, Ma."

"Huling Birhen sa Lupa" romped off with the most number of awards including best director, for Lamangan, and best picture.

The movie's producer, Jaggs Entertainment, will receive P500,000 as cash incentive.

Jay Manalo also received his second acting award that night at the Aliw Theater in Pasay City, also for "Huling Birhen sa Lupa," where he portrayed an ex-convict posing as a priest and miracle worker.

Manalo bagged his first acting award from the Manunuri in last month's Gawad Urian for the movie "Prosti" where he played a pimp in love with a young prostitute.

Actress and playwright Raquel Villavicencio also went home with the best screenplay and best story awards for her work in "Huling Birhen sa Lupa."

Best supporting actress Elizabeth Oropesa, who also won for her role in "Huling Birhen," came in several minutes after the movie's production designer Tatus Aldana thanked the festival judges on her behalf.

Aldana himself bagged the best production design trophy for the movie.

But Oropesa got to say her thank you speech when she and former child star Snooky Serna presented the best actor award to Manalo.

Stage-movie-television actor and scriptwriter Jose Mari Avellana was best supporting actor for his role as a terrorist in Cirio Santiago's "Operation Balikatan."

"Pangarap Ko Ang Ibigin Ka" lead actress Regine Velasquez was conspicuously absent during the awards rites, while her leading man, Christopher de Leon, came to the awards ceremony without his wife Sandy Andolong.

"Pangarap Ko Ang Ibigin Ka" led the box-office race when all the six entries premiered in Manila theaters last June 11. The movie took home the best musical score trophy for Raul Mitra, and best theme song for composer Ogie Alcasid.

Film editor Marya Ignacio's work on "Pangarap Ko Ang Ibigin Ka" also won for best editing.

"Sanib," which came second to "Pangarap Ko Ang Ibigin Ka" in the box office, took home only the best child performer award for Dindin Llarena.

Augusto Salvador's "Bertud ng Putik," won best cinematography and best visual effects for Romy Vitug and Mark Ambat.

The movie is action star Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.'s follow-up to the top-grossing entry "Agimat" in the Metro Manila Film Festival last December.

METROBRIEFS

SM Makati hit by fire

A THREE-HOUR fire destroyed P500,000 worth of property at the SM Makati Thursday night. Fire Officer 2 Henry Tribdino said SM watchman Vicencio Balmores reported the blaze at around 10:45 p.m. after smoke was seen billowing from the department store's third level stockroom. Investigators said the fire was "small" but the thick smoke that filled the enclosed environment prevented firemen from quickly putting out the blaze. It was declared put out at 1:15 a.m. As a consequence, the SM store did not open for business yesterday as investigators searched through the debris to determine what caused the fire. In a statement, SM officials said the store would be open today. *Leila B. Salaverria*

16 fall in anti-crime drive

SIXTEEN crime suspects victimizing students in Manila have been arrested by Western Police District operatives since the start of the current school year. National Capital Region Police Office chief Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco said the arrests were part of "Oplan Balik Paaralan" which he vowed would continue long after the opening of classes. "We're doing all we can to ensure the safety of the students all year round," Velasco said. He said the arrests were made possible through the community's support. Velasco thus encouraged citizens to continue reporting crimes through PNP Text 2910, Magic Eye Text Patrol 2920 and DILG Police Assistance Hotline 117. *Margaux Ortiz*

2 elderly women attacked

IN A span of one week, two elderly women have reportedly been sexually abused in northern Metro Manila. One of the women, age 72, was attacked inside their house in Navotas by four still unidentified men on June 14. She said she was alone when the suspects barged into her home and dragged her to a sofa. The victim said the suspects appeared to have been under the influence of illegal drugs. On Wednesday, a 61-year-old woman filed rape charges against a 24-year-old neighbor who allegedly abused her twice inside her house in Valenzuela City. The police have launched a manhunt against the suspect, a certain "Nonoy" Monteclaro. *Tina Santos*

Seminar on family business

A SEMINAR on "Understanding Family Businesses and Managing Conflict in the Family Firm" will be held on June 21, 2003, Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the De La Salle University — Angelo King Institute for Economics and Business Studies College of Saint Benilde International Conference Center, Arellano Avenue corner Estrada Street, Malate, Manila. The seminar will allow participants to familiarize themselves with the challenges of running a family business. For inquiries, call 524-5369 and look for Aileen Villanueva or Raymond Habaradas.

Drivers decry Malabon sticker rule

By Tina Santos

JEEPNEY drivers and operators in Malabon City are denouncing an ordinance that requires them to shell out P200 to P350 for a sticker that will allow them to ply the city's roads.

The drivers and operators belonging to the Monumento-Acacia-Malabon Drivers' Association have also been complaining of alleged abuses of traffic enforcers from the city's Public Order and Safety Office (Poso).

In a phone interview, association vice president Bogs Narvasa said traffic enforcers had started apprehending those without the sticker even if the renewal of the franchise of public utility vehicles was still up to June 26.

Narvasa said their driver's licenses and plates were being confiscated because they had not secured the sticker.

Worse, he said, the traffic violation receipts being issued by the Poso were not recognized by other traffic enforcement agencies outside the city.

He noted that Traffic Management Group operatives outside Malabon were apprehending and charging them with driving without a license.

Narvasa demanded that Malabon authorities look into their complaint or face a crippling transport strike.

Other transport groups whose members pass through Malabon have also decried the sticker ordinance which they say could become a source of corruption.

But in a phone interview, Poso chief Gerry Gonzales said the drivers and operators were only making excuses out of fear that authorities would find out that they had no franchise.

Gonzales likewise defended his men saying they were only implementing the ordinance.

The Poso chief said the sticker ordinance was intentionally made as a safeguard against colorum vehicles which ply Malabon roads without a legitimate franchise from the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

QC assessors to check, verify every land title

By Amy Remo

TO STOP the proliferation of fake land titles, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. yesterday ordered the City Assessor's Office to authenticate each registered land title.

Belmonte yesterday said he had ordered the check on all property documents to prevent the duplication and overlapping of titles, particularly those pertaining to government lands. He said the city government was zeroing in on properties with two or more claimants to sort out the rightful owners.

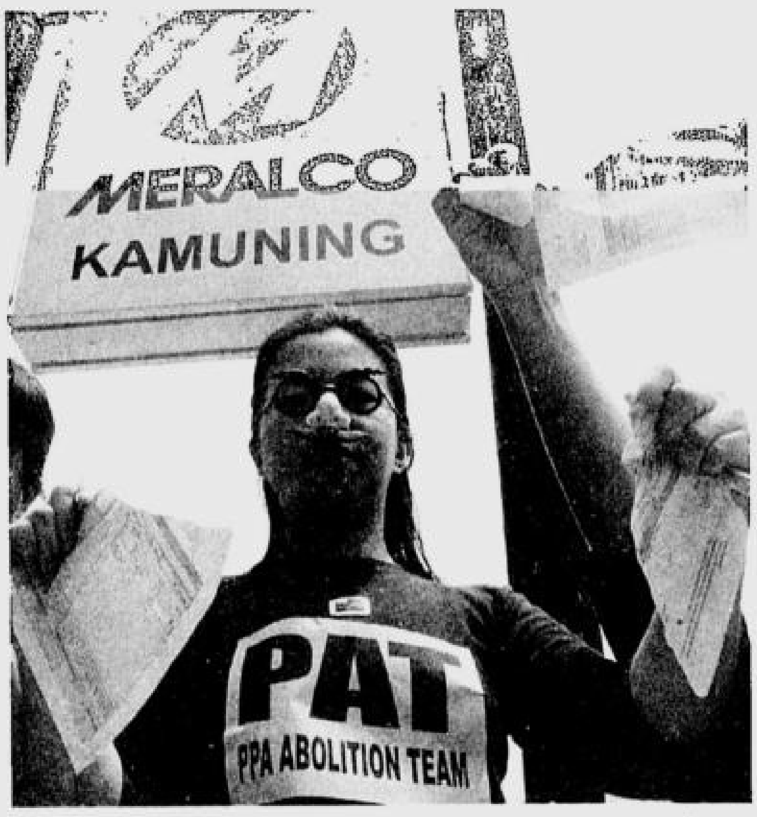
One of the contested lands is the Arboretum, a park located in the University of the Philippines. Luis Menor, Raof Dimaporo and about 500 families are staking their claim on the land.

City Assessor Toefista Pajara said that her office has stopped issuing tax declaration certificates for property that already has an existing record. A tax declaration certificate indicates how much a property is worth. It is needed for the sale of a property.

The city is working with the Land Registration Authority, Registry of Deeds and the Bureau of Lands to strengthen the government's titling system, Pajara said.

Landowners whose titles have been damaged or lost are being urged to have these reconstituted to prevent substitution and duplication.

Apart from the UP property, fake land titles covering land in the Payatas Estate and Don Antonio Heights have also been proliferating.



CONTINUING PROTEST
A protester wears a mask during a rally in front of the office of the Manila Electric Company in Kamuning, Quezon City, to demand the scapping of the power purchase adjustment. JOAN BONDOC

TV reporter snubs court, risks arrest

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

NOW, it's his turn to be in the news.

The Parañaque City Regional Trial Court issued yesterday a warrant for the arrest of ABS-CBN reporter Dindo Amparo for failing to attend the June 19 hearing of a rape case to which he was called as a witness.

In issuing the warrant, Judge Raul de Leon of Branch 258, instructed Sheriff Romel Macalisang to arrest Amparo as soon as possible.

The reporter is a witness in the case of La Salle student Claudine Feliciano, who was abducted, raped and found dead in Parañaque City on March 10, 2001.

The court wants Amparo to testify about his April 2001 exclusive interview with Ernesto Berry, one of the suspects, who admitted the crime during the taped conversation.

Reached for comment, Amparo told the INQUIRER that he failed to attend the hearing because he had been sick.

Amparo had yet to receive a copy of the warrant but said ABS-CBN's legal counsel would be writing the court to explain his absence during the hearing.

He also said he would be attending the next hearing on July 17.

In a document showed to the INQUIRER, Amparo received the subpoena for the June 19 hearing about 5 p.m. on June 4. He even reportedly told a court employee that he already prepared the tapes of the interview.

According to the warrant, that was Amparo's second time not to appear in court.

Sidewalk is grave to son

FIRST, he lost his son. Then, he lost his freedom.

Thus is the story of a penniless cigarette vendor who has been arrested for leaving the remains of his dead baby on the sidewalk of Tomas Mapua Street, Manila.

SPO2 Virgo Villareal said the common-law wife of Rogelio Garcia, 38, gave birth to the stillborn baby on June 18 at the Fabella Hospital.

The baby was given to Garcia but he did not have the money to give his child a proper burial.

Garcia decided to wrap his son in diaper cloth and left him on the sidewalk, Villareal said.

Garbage collectors discovered the baby yesterday. It was traced to Garcia after his in-laws who lived nearby identified the dead child.

Margaux Ortiz

Ping afraid of his own shadow

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

WHY do supporters of Sen. Panfilo Lacson suspect that their man would be implicated in the government's renewed campaign against illegal drugs?

If their boss doesn't have anything to hide, why do they worry just because the military said a "national figure" was one of the government officials whose connections are being monitored? Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, military intelligence chief, did not even give any hints on the identity of the official concerned.

Lacson is not the only "national figure" around.

* * *

There's a saying among farmers that the hen that cackles is the one that lays the eggs.

In short, a person who protests too much invites suspicion.

Betraying his fears, Lacson is like the person who is afraid of his own shadow.

* * *

I suspect Lacson is raising an outcry because he knows that the judicial noose may soon tighten around his neck.

The Supreme Court is expected to issue shortly a decision whether he will be charged in court for his part in the much-publicized Kuratong Baleleng multiple murder case.

Lacson's lawyers have asked the high court to reconsider its earlier ruling that the suspects in the "Kuratong" case can be charged in the lower courts despite their claim that the case had already prescribed.

* * *

The high tribunal very seldom reverses itself in its decisions.

Lacson apparently fears that if the high court decision is not in his favor, he will be arrested and placed behind bars while the case is being tried by the criminal circuit court. Murder is a non-bailable offense.

To gain public sympathy when that time comes, Lacson, through his supporters, is now crying that the government is trying to shoot down his presidential ambition.

By the way, this is not a criticism of former immigration commissioner Rufus Rodriguez, who is Lacson's spokesperson. It's his job to defend his man. Rodriguez is one of the very few decent men in Lacson's circle.

* * *

Sen. Robert Barbers has volunteered to resign his elective post to become a drug czar in the government's renewed drive against illegal drugs.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo says Barbers doesn't have to resign as senator because he can oversee the drug operations as chair of the Senate committee on drugs.

Knowing Barbers (I was a reporter when he was captain of the Manila police), I think he will be more effective if he is to resign as senator in order to concentrate on his proposed new role.

* * *

A problem of protocol, however, would arise if Barbers should resign his Senate position to become an anti-drugs czar.

Would he operate under Interior Secretary Jose Lina, concurrent chair of the Dangerous Drugs Board, or retired police general Anselmo Avenido, chief of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA)? Or would they be under him?

Could Barbers form his own force out of his buddies at the Manila police and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)?

* * *

One thing is clear if Barbers were to head a super anti-drugs unit: bodies of drug traffickers and pushers would litter the streets of Metro Manila.

Barbers would give them no quarter.

In this connection, please allow this writer to make a humble suggestion: Why doesn't the President appoint Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte to head a super anti-drugs unit in Mindanao and the Visayas?

* * *

Verna Florendo of BF Homes, Caloocan, was window-shopping yesterday at the Star Mall in Mandaluyong with her three-year-old daughter when she got into a heated argument with a man who accosted her purportedly for her sharp stare.

At the height of the altercation, the man drew a gun and pointed it at the 34-year-old housewife.

One of the passersby called a uniformed cop.

* * *

Florendo rushed to the uniformed officer and told him the man threatened her with a gun. She asked that the cop, whom she described as young, arrest the armed man.

When the policeman saw the man being complained of, he saluted him and let him go. Apparently, the man is a fellow cop.

Florendo, shaken by the incident, told this writer: "Where can a citizen go to when he or she gets into conflict with an abusive policeman?"

To be honest with you, Ms Florendo, your chances of getting a fair shake from agencies handling cases against policemen are very slim.

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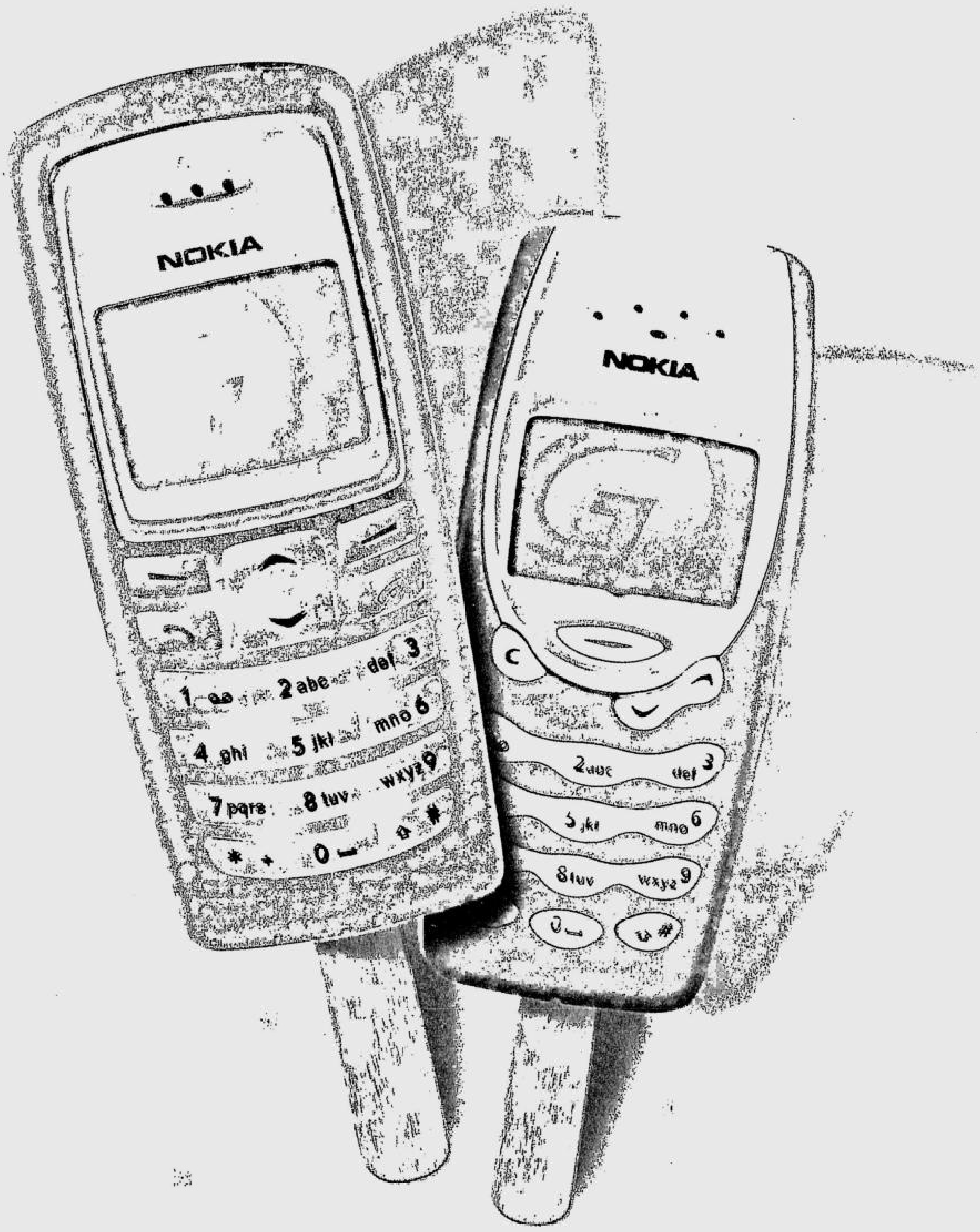

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Only 279 bets so far—Buhain

By Marc Anthony Reyes

AS FAR as the Philippine Sports Commission is concerned, only 279 athletes have so far met the criteria for joining the Philippine contingent to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games in December.

The figure is way below the roster of 400 announced recently by the Philippine Olympic Committee as already having passed the criteria of either a silver medal in the 2001 SEAG in Malaysia or a bronze in the 2002 Asian Games in Busan.

PSC chair Eric Buhain said the POC has yet to update the agency of new additions to the SEAG roster and expressed doubts whether there will be room for more qualifiers since very few athletes have competed abroad this year.

POC vice president Steve Hontiveros, chairman of the SEAG screening committee, had earlier predicted that the RP contingent could even hit the 500-member mark with some national sports associations still to pick their respective bets to the SEAG.

Hontiveros added that many athletes in sports where performances cannot be measured have to be included in the delegation, but Buhain remained firm in his decision that PSC fund only the athletes who meet the criteria set by no less than the POC.

Meanwhile, the PSC also sought yesterday the help of the Department of Justice in its dispute with the POC regarding the use of the phrase Team Philippines for corporate sponsorship.

Buhain stressed that the PSC, which bankrolls most of the country's international campaigns, has all the right to use the phrase in generating sponsorship money.

The POC insists, however, that under IOC rules, it has the exclusive right to use the phrase as well as the Olympic logo which are used in merchandises and promotional materials by the sponsors tapped by the POC.

"We are here not only to fund the national team but also to think of ways to maximize whatever resources we have," said Buhain. "The use of Team Philippines is definitely one way for us to get other sources of funds aside from those allocated by the government."

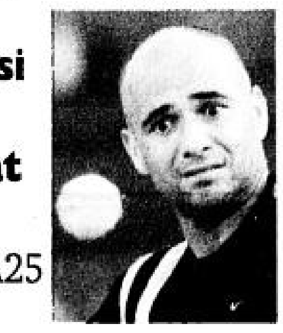
The PSC chair added that the PSC "certainly won't use the five rings in the Olympic logo, the SEA Games logo and even the POC logo," but maintained the term Team Philippines ought to be "shared by all Filipinos."

Buhain noted that the Team Philippines phrase is applicable to all international stints of all national teams and is not limited to the Olympics, Southeast Asian Games and Asian Games.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Unbeaten Suico in crucial bout** /A20

■ **Rosales 2 shots off Rochester lead** /A21
■ **UAAP, NCAA join anti-drug crusade** /A22
■ **Agassi still a threat at 33** /A25



Baguio dad says Barredo couldn't have done it

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Commissioner Mike Barredo of the Philippine Sports Commission was supervising a training course for the disabled in the morning he was alleged to have molested a janitress at Teachers' Camp, a city councilor claimed yesterday.

Councilor Federico Mandapat Jr. said Barredo assisted him in monitoring several swimming and track-and-field exercises for 20 disabled athletes and coaches from Baguio, Pangasinan and La Union on June 8.

The janitress placed the time of the incident at 9:45 a.m. on June 8, the end of the training course.

"(Barredo) was with me very early that morning. He showed up when the delegates of the training course conducted field exercises at the Baguio swimming pool, at the Teachers Camp track and field oval, and later around (other sports venues)," Mandapat said.

"If something wrong had occurred I would have sensed it," he added.

Mandapat, who is also a lawyer, obtained the formal charge sheet on behalf of Barredo and had been asked to represent the commissioner.

The sexual harassment case has been assigned to Baguio Prosecutor Magdalena Manalo.

"The janitress claimed Barredo had asked her to bring him to the bathroom. She did, but she held onto his arms. That is the wrong procedure because blind people need to be guided. The proper way of assisting them would be to prod them by placing the hands on their backs," Mandapat said in Filipino.

"(The commissioner) had apparently grasped at the janitor's back to help himself regain his balance, and that's how he was led to the bathroom," Mandapat added. "But the janitress claimed that, upon reaching the bathroom, Barredo supposedly ran his hands down her back towards her buttocks and had allegedly massaged her there. She claimed to have run out of the room in fright and immediately contacted her supervisor."

Mandapat, chair of the council's committee on the disabled, sponsored in April a resolution that asked the PSC to train disabled athletes here.

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Unbeaten Suico in crucial bout

By Rey Danseco
Contributor

ORIENTAL and Pacific Boxing Federation (OPBF) super-featherweight champ Randy Suico tries to move closer to a World Boxing Council (WBC) title crack when he fights Japanese Kazunori Fujita at Korakuen Hall in Tokyo today.

Suico, rated No. 3 by the WBC, is eyeing a shot at the winner between reigning WBC super-featherweight champ Sirimongkol Singmanasak of Thailand and Jesus Chavez of Mexico on August 15 in Gardenville, Nevada.

Joe Koizumi, Suico's Japanese manager who will work in his corner with Filipino trainer Juanito Ablaca said Suico's victory tonight will be his ticket for a shot at the WBC 130-pound diadem this year.

The 5-foot-7 native of Mandaue City nicknamed "Stone Hand" and "Golden Boy" has an unbeaten record of 19 victories, 17 by knockouts, while the 5-foot-6 Fujita sports a 16-3 card, including 9 KO's.

Suico is coming off nine straight knockout wins. His last victim was Indon Timbul Hutagalung in the sixth round in Lapu-Lapu City.

BRITISH world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis (right) poses with Ukrainian contender Vitali Klitschko after a weigh-in outside the Staples Center in Los Angeles. *See story on page 25.* REUTERS

Jao, Mendoza: Who's quicker?

ROSARIO, Batangas—Six-time road race champion Jolet Jao of Shell Advance and Benjo Mendoza of Speedeffex test each other's mettle again when they vie in the Shell Advance Super Bikes Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit here tomorrow.

Jao, winner of three of the past four races, leads the standings in the Expert Class with 84 points.

But Mendoza, who ruled Race 3, is not far behind with 74 points in this series sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Safety and Sports Association (Namssa) and sponsored by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Toyota Motors Phils., Kilton Motors, MOF Company, Norkis Yamaha, Pagcor Sports and also supported by Ford and Addict Mobile.

Last year's runner-up Toti Alberto of Access Plus-Ducati trails in third with 55.

A fight to remember

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE HARDEST thing to do is predict. Especially when protagonists with brilliant records are involved. Such as Lennox Lewis and Vitali Klitschko, whose title fight tomorrow will be aired on Cerge Remonde's RPN-9 starting at 10 a.m. simultaneously on Solar Sports. If Ed Picson and Hermie Rivera don't catch cold, they're welcome to join me in the TV panel.

Lewis is 40-2-1, 31 by knockout. The remaining "2-1" simply means he lost twice, drew once.

Awesome ain't it? You fight a guy that good, you need George W. Bush by your side.

But Lewis has lost once to a nondescript. Was his name Hasim Rahman?

"Yes," said Bong Barrameda, the walking encyclopedia of sports.

But that defeat was a fluke. Lewis goofed and got caught. Boom! KO in 5. Even the best are entitled to commit at least two major mistakes in this world of imperfections.

The next time they met, Lewis redeemed himself, knocking the guy out faster than a woman changing her clothes. In that fight, Lewis reduced Rahman, nicknamed "The Rock," into a pebble; it was Lewis by KO in 4.

Lewis' other loss was to Oliver McCall, the guy more known as the tormented man of boxing than as Lewis' first tormentor. In 1994, McCall knocked Lewis out in 2. Not long after, McCall faded out after calling it quits in the heat of a bout, his mind and not his punches suddenly not functioning normally anymore. His abrupt retirement left Lewis not being able to avenge his loss to McCall.

Such is boxing, described by Norman Mailer as "the loneliest job of all." He called the heavyweight champions "so alone."

Wrote Mailer: "Dempsey was alone and Tunney could never explain himself and Carnera was sad and Baer an indecipherable clown. Great heavyweights like Louis had the loneliness of the ages in their silence."

Lewis himself could be also lonely now. In his late 30s, retirement beckons. But before the Briton could proceed to call it a day, before he could say "It's been a lovely evening, dolls and fellas," before the big, fat lady sings the blues, Lewis must yet make one final(?) performance of his own.

Against Klitschko, Lewis might not only be having his swan song. It could be his signature fight.

Lewis' fights with Holyfield were a farce, with Tyson, 'twas but a fix.

With Klitschko, Lewis has a fight that can shoot him up alongside the immortals of boxing.

If there's one fighter in Lewis' life who is as fearsome as anyone you can think of, it's Klitschko, currently the world's tallest prizefighter at 6-foot-8.

A native of Ukraine but now based in Los Angeles, Klitschko could be the Ivan Drago in the film *Rocky IV*, the Russian who threatened Rocky Balboa before their savage fight, "I must break you." In that film, Drago it was who killed Balboa's friend, Apollo Creed.

Klitschko seems to have an unbreakable physique of 245 pounds, 78 inches in reach, 46-1/2 inches of normal chest, 48 inches of expanded chest, 17 inches of forearms, and 11 inches of fists of fury.

His record tells it all: 32 wins, 1 defeat. Only 1 of his 32 victims survived a knockout. Last heard, all his 31 KO'd foes were either retired or suffering from hearing tingling bells in their ears.

You fight a guy that brutal, you are up against a beast. You don't need Saddam Hussein for a front act. Man has decorum, beast decapitates.

And yet, Klitschko just merely happened to be passing by. Where was he all along?

Pssst! It's Lewis calling.

Kirk Johnson, Lewis' original opponent in tomorrow's world heavyweight fight that stakes both Lewis' WBC and IBO titles, has injured a chest muscle and withdrew on June 6. Fortunately for Klitschko, he was in the fight undercard and has, therefore, amply trained for the now-canceled bout against Chris Boswell.

Lewis called Klitschko to pitch in to save pride?

Maybe. But the real reason is, Lewis has got to do it. Now. He must stop being a dodger. He can't boast of having beaten the best of them because Holyfield and Tyson have become old dogs when he met them.

Oh, yes, Tyson.

Tyson was Lewis' last opponent. Knocked him out in the 8th. And that was a year ago, on June 8, 2002. By now, cobwebs must have cocooned in Lewis' mind. Rust could have set in, too, in those creaky-by-now joints?

No doubt Klitschko, taller than Lewis by 3 inches, is tough if we go by his resume. His lone conqueror in 33 fights was a journeyman named Ross Puritty, who won in the 11th round on Dec. 5, 1998, in Kiev, Ukraine.

Could that be the first of the two mistakes destined to happen in Klitschko's life?

Maybe.

I was 1-1 the last two times I made predictions. Tyson lost to Lewis and I lost. Before that, I won as I had correctly predicted Hopkins to beat Trinidad.

And so, who will it be today?

At 37, I feel Lewis is too old for the throne.

At 31, I feel it's Klitschko's turn to be the next king.

Take your, pick. But please, don't pick on me if you lose.

We are, and will always be, a world of imperfections, remember?

***

FASTBREAK. Happy Birthday to Pareng Louie Visorde, who is celebrating today at the Villa Leandro Resort in Sariaya, Quezon.

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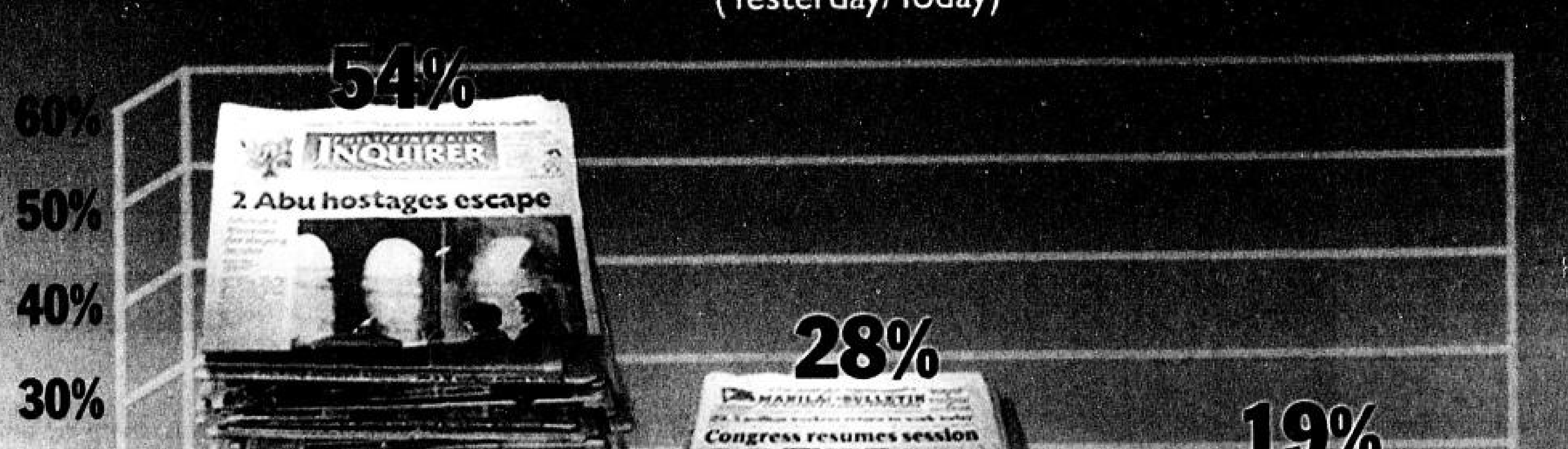

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ROSALES: Eyeing the elusive breakthrough. GETTY IMAGES

Rosales 2 shots off Rochester lead

By Jong Arcano

RIGHT on target again.

Jenny Rosales, still hot after last week's near-miss, survived a shaky homeward trip to shoot a three-under-par 69 Thursday and join a big group in third place after the opening round of the Wegman's Rochester LPGA in New York.

Going full throttle with her driver on the front nine where she finished, Rosales almost paid dearly for it, needing a big birdie on the eighth–the last of the five she made for the day–to cap her best start in four seasons on the LPGA Tour.

Rosales, whose 291-yard average with her Ping driver on the front nine was top of the heap, stood just two strokes off solo leader Tina Barrett.

The 37-year-old Barrett, winless since scoring her only victory in her rookie year in 1989, birdied the last three holes to take a one-stroke lead over Anna-Jane Eathorne.

Prior to yesterday, Rosales' best opening round was a 67 in the 2002 Chick-Fil-A which tied her for fourth.

The Pagcor-sponsored Rosales, however, may have to deal with the same player who denied her a breakthrough win last week in the Giant Eagle Classic in Vienna, Ohio as Rachel Teske was also in her group.

Also with Teske, the winner in the four-way playoff for the Giant Eagle title that also included Annika Sorenstam and Lorie Kane, were defending champion Karrie Webb, Grace Park, Mi Hyun Kim, Amy Read, Anna Acker-Macosko, Marianne Morris, and Soo Yoon-kang.

Sorenstam skipped the 27-year-old, $1.2 million tournament for the third straight year, after complaining of fatigue last week.

Rosales, now 19th on the money list, had two birdies (13th and 16th) on the back nine of the tree-lined Locust Hill course for a 34 she preserved by saving par from the bunker on the 17th. She got to three under with another birdie on the first before encountering trouble on the second and fourth which she both bogeyed.

Webb, who also won here in 1999 but has yet to win this season, got going with a solid round built around three birdies in a five-hole stretch on the back nine. She chipped in from the fringe on No. 13 and made putts of 15 and 10 feet on Nos. 15 and 17.

"I fault my concentration a little bit here and there but, all in all, as the years go on, I've got a little more confidence with my game–everything's starting to click into shape," Webb said.

Baird flies off with 63, but Tiger lurks

HARRISON, New York—Briny Baird is trying to become the latest little-known golfer to make a name for himself at the PGA Buick Classic.

Baird fired an 8-under-par 63 here on Thursday to open a three-stroke lead over Joey Sindelar and US Open champion Jim Furyk after the first round of the five million-dollar event at the Westchester Country Club.

Tiger Woods, playing for the first time in six years without owning a major title, fired a 67 and is one of three golfers four shots off the pace.

Shigeki Maruyama of Japan and Retief Goosen of South Africa joined Woods in shooting 67s on Thursday.

This event has been a place for unheralded golfers to shine against the PGA's bright lights, including J.P. Hayes (1998), Dennis Paulson (2000) and Chris Smith (2002) posting their first PGA victory here.

Hoping to extend the trend is Baird, a 31-year-old Floridian whose best finish was second at the 2001 John Deere Classic.

"You play and you hope you put yourself into a position to win," Baird said. "I haven't analyzed why someone would win this tournament. It's probably just a coincidence. I don't know if the percentage of first-time winners here is greater." Woods has gone three starts without a win, leading some to question if the world's best golfer is in a slump.

He captured the Match Play Championship on March 2, tied for 15th at the Masters, finished 29th at the Deutsche Bank Open in Germany and 20th at the US Open.

Woods was off to a flying start Thursday with five birdies on his first 10 holes. He bogeyed 13 and 15 and finished with a birdie at 18 to complete a 67.

"Today is an indication that I'm heading in the right direction. Just kind of keep it going, trust that you get in a rhythm and make some shots," Woods said. *AFP*

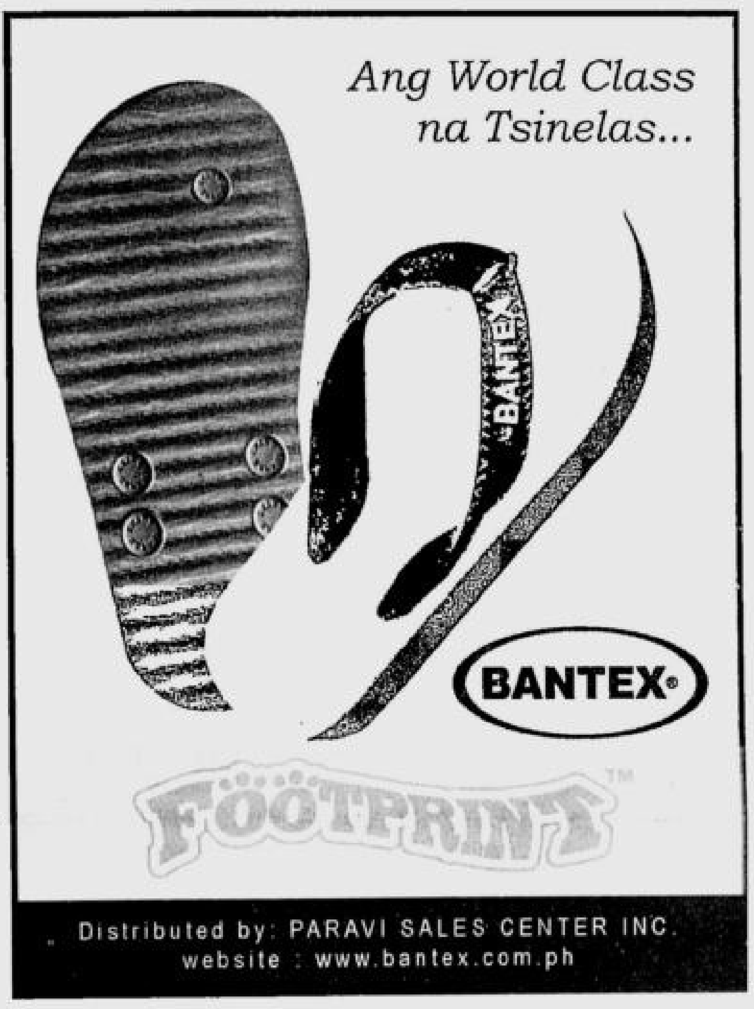
WOODS follows his bunker shot on the 18th green. AP

Nicklaus, Watson to re-run '77 duel

LONDON—Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson are to get the chance to re-live one of the greatest duels in golf history–their 1977 British Open duel at Scotland's Turnberry links.

The two veterans head a star-studded cast for the 2003 Senior British Open, which is taking place at the famous Ayrshire course from July 24-27.

Watson prevailed back in 1997, edging out Nicklaus by a single shot at the end of a thrilling four-day battle between two players at the top of their games. *AFP*



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Stephenson may do a Sorenstam

JOHNSTON, Iowa—Months after Annika Sorenstam played in a men's tournament, Jan Stephenson could do the same.

Stephenson's agent said Thursday he was working out details of an invitation for the former LPGA star to play in the Turtle Bay Championship on the Champions Tour in Hawaii Oct. 6-12.

"Discussions are in the final stages with just a few particulars to finalize," C.J. Roberts said. "We're on board ready to go."

Roberts said he expects a formal announcement to be made next month.

Calls to a Champions Tour spokesman Thursday night were not returned. *AP*

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Per DTI-NCR permit no. 2572 series of 2003

Warriors prepared to batter opposition

GEORGE Chia's shot of a lifetime remains fresh in the minds of University of the East mentor David "Boyzie" Zamar and the countless red-shirted fans of the Red Warriors, who went home carrying the burden of the vanquished during last year's UAAP Final Four at the Araneta Coliseum.

ZAMAR

"It's hard to forget that loss because it ruined our season," Zamar admitted. "That shot was a dagger in our hearts."

UE came to the Final Four with a twice-to-beat advantage but failed to finish off Ateneo, which eventually won the title.

After Paul Artadi committed the mother of all blunders with an ill-timed drive to the basket which resulted in Chia's gamewinnner, 72-70, Zamar, a true-blooded Warrior felt as if the world ended during that fateful game.

But Zamar and the rest of the gang have already proven they are made of sterner stuff.

Reason: Despite its failure to nail the big one since winning back-to-back titles in 1984 and 85, UE went on to win succeeding tournaments not just over their UAAP rivals but against their NCAA foes and leading Vis-Min collegiate teams.

Last year, UE, despite its turnovers, was at its best with a run and game which is the envy of many. Under Zamar, UE has blossomed into a well-disciplined squad, ready to exploit an opponent's mistake.

Still, Zamar believes there is always room for improvement. "This year's team must go back to the basics. We need to have mental toughness because the UAAP is a crowning glory for the team," Zamar said.

Ronald Tubid has brought his high-flying acts to Shell in the pros and Zamar said somebody must fill in the void.

Artadi, who even left his PBL team Welcoat in mid-season to concentrate on UE, will make one last stab at glory as playmaker.

James Yap, KJ Canaleta, Jay-ar Estrada, Rolly Masbang ,Arnold Booker, Olan Omiping remain deadly.

Dennis U. Eroa

SPORTS noodle

VOL. I NO. 020

Bong Barrameda

Sports inventions

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.
○ True / ○ False: Game of the Generals was created by a Filipino in the 70's.

2 > 5 Pts.
What's the country of birth of James Naismith, who invented basketball in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1891?
○ Canada
○ United States

3 > 7 Pts.
Which martial art was established
○ Judo
○ Karate
○ Sumo

4 > 10 Pts.

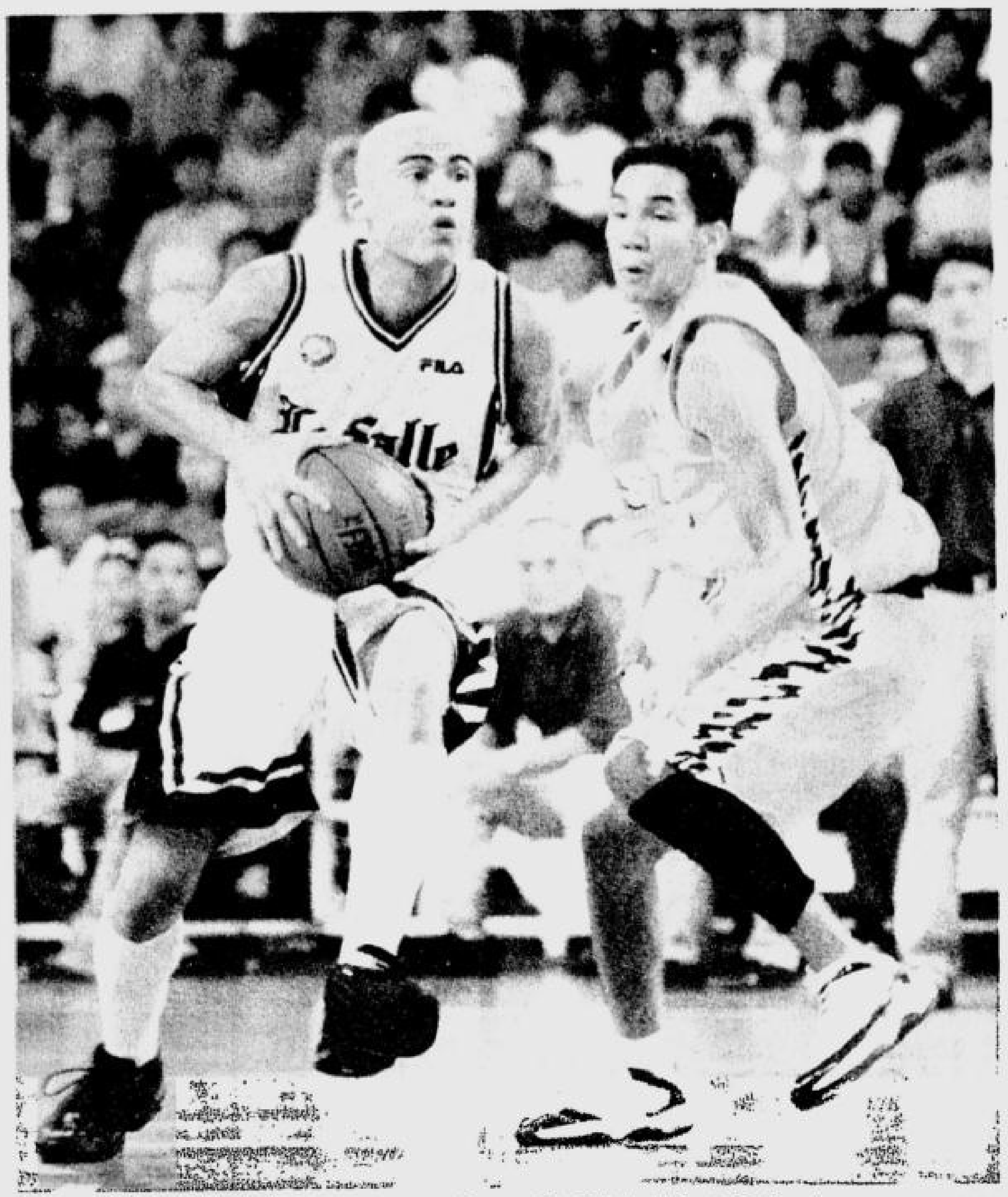
'Gossima' was the original name of what ball game devised by James Gibb in 1889?
○ Golf
○ Polo
○ Table Tennis

5 > 20 Pts.
Where would you find a Zamboni machine, named after its American inventor Frank Zamboni?
○ Fitness gym
○ Horse race track
○ Bowling alley
○ Ice rink

6 > 25 Pts.
Which board game was invented first?
○ Boggle
○ Monopoly
○ Parcheesi
○ Scrabble

7 > 30 Pts.
In 1759 a Belgian maker of musical instruments named Joseph Merlin decided to show off his newly-minted invention at a dance ball in London while playing the violin. Unfortunately, he seriously wounded himself after smashing both his violin and a mirror in making his grand entrance. What did he invent?

ANSWERS/ A24


FORMER rookie of the year Mark Cardona remains one of La Salle's chief outside threats. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

PAUL Artadi (center) will continue to be UE's sparkplug.

TEAMS POLISH LEAGUE POLICY

UAAP, NCAA join a

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE UAAP and the NCAA yesterday joined hands and announced they will embark on a crusade to prevent the use of prohibited drugs in their turf.

Jose Capistrano Jr., this year's UAAP president, and Francis Gusi, chair of the NCAA management committee, told the INQUIRER that their respective leagues are determined to weed out undesirables in their ranks.

Capistrano of host Ateneo said the UAAP board is scheduled to discuss the implementing rules regarding drug-testing in its regular meeting next week.

"The board will meet regarding this issue. I am all for it but we also have to talk about the proper procedure and cost if ever there'll be drug testing this season," Capistrano told the INQUIRER while watching the Hapee-Viva title game on Tuesday at the Pasig Sports Center.

Gusi, who guested in yesterday's SCOOP session at Kamayan on West Avenue, Quezon City, said the NCAA is united in its bid to combat the drug menace, which has supposedly tarnished the image of the PBA.

"A general assembly of all the competing teams will be held today in order to polish the league's policy on drugs," Gusi said.

Gusi, also the athletic moderator of San Sebastian College, warned that offenders would be automatically banned from participating in the NCAA.

Dr. Ramon Cercado of the University of Perpetual Help-Rizal and vice chair of the policy board, expressed confidence that NCAA athletes will strictly follow the league's policy on drugs.

"For one, schools already have their own drug testing," said Dr. Cercado, who represented Fr. Hernan Omecillo, head of the policy board.

The NCAA will open its 79th season on June 28 at the Araneta Coliseum with the

Alvarez, Simon share MVP award; Banal honored

By Dennis U. Eroa

LOST in the euphoria of Hapee's victory over Viva Mineral Water last Thursday were the heroics of two-time UAAP MVP Rich Alvarez.

While coach Junel Baculi and his gritty band of Sparklers celebrated no end at the Pasig Sports Center following Hapee's 64-62 squeaker, the 6-foot-4 Alvarez was in his usual subdued mood, giving in to requests of young autograph seekers.

"I'm very happy with the result. It's a job well done. I will treasure this experience," said Alvarez, who now owns two PBL championship rings to go along with Ateneo's UAAP win last year.

A low-key player, he wasn't even in a prominent place when cameras clicked during the raucous picture-taking of the champion team.

Experts feel Alvarez's imposing presence in the shaded lane greatly helped Hapee end its seven-year title-drought.

He didn't lit up the scoreboard as teammates Peter June Simon and Allan Salangsang did throughout the conference.

Salangsang, although a flop in the fifth game with four points, won as finals MVP.

The PBL Press Corps, however, picked Alvarez to share the MVP award with Simon, and gave its nod to Viva mentor Coy Banal as best coach over Baculi.

Alvarez provided the defensive and rebounding muscles which often stymied Viva's fluid offense. The son of a former US Navyman was in complete control down low.

"Rich was our "interior" minister," Baculi described Alvarez."He concentrated in rebounding and defense although he can also score."

Baculi also credited Hapee's fighting heart for the win, even as team owner Cecilio Pedro thanked the Lord for ending a long title famine.

"The pressure was tremendous," said Baculi after winning his sixth title.

Baculi's already ripe for the pros but is still looking for the big break.

In the do-or-die Game Five of the best-of-five series, Alvarez was at his best, grabbing rebounds confidently and rejecting shots to bolster Hapee's hopes.

"Basketball is about helping each other. I knew my role in the team," Alvarez said after his 6-point, 14-rebound and four shot-block performance.

Knowing his potential, Hapee management did everything to include Alvarez in its roster this year. Also recruited were Ateneo's Wesley Gonzales and Larry Fonacier.

Tapping Alvarez paid off handsomely for Hapee. No longer new to championship pressure, Alvarez was a source of strength in the series made exciting by Viva's gutsy stand.

Hapee, which fell behind 1-2 in the title series, swept the last two games to escape what could have been a monumental upset.

Viva, composed mostly of standouts from Far Eastern University, wasn't given a whale of a chance against the matured Hapee crew in the playoffs.

But coach Koy Banal's charges sprang a surprise by winning Game One, 64-57, in Lucena City. Hapee made it 1-1 by topping Game Two, 52-43, but Viva posted a scary 58-56 win in the third game and moved on the threshold of joining the list of rare rookie-winners.

"What can I say? Nobody really expected us to be in the finals," Banal told the INQUIRER.

The Water Force took the loss gamely.

Of course, they talked about Gerard Jones' miss from pointblank range which could have given Viva the title, but overall they seemed proud of what they achieved.

"Our next target is the UAAP. The PBL is part of our preparation for the league and I am happy with what I saw," Banal said.

He said he wasn't able to shake Baculi's hands after the game because of the swarming crowd.

Alvarez said his immediate concern now is to help the Blue Eagles keep their UAAP title.

God cho
swear

HE'S been used to riding sweaty shoul
after a championship. The 2003 Unity C
in fact coach Junel Baculi's sixth PBL ch
pionship.

But the Hapee Toothpaste mentor sw
victory had been close to impossible un
godly intervention decided it for them in
final seconds of the deciding Game 5.

"The pressure was tremendous, that w
everything was clear in the final 1.9 seco
talagang nagtatalon na kami ni Boss (t
manager) Bernard Yang," Baculi related.

"*Siguro* last conference, it was not
time yet. It was more of a preparation pe
for the boys for this much deserved rewa
he added.

His sixth PBL title sent Baculi just one
short of equaling coach Alfrancis Chua's
of seven titles in 10 conferences with
and later with Tanduay Gold Rhummast
The win ended the seven-year drough
Lamoiyan Corp. since Baculi steered
team to its first crown in the 1996 PBL R
forced Conference.

It was also the first title for team man
Bernard Yang in four years since Hape
turned to the PBL scene in 1999.

Allan Salangsang proved himself
deserving when he bagged the Finals
which may serve as a fitting tribute to hi
ceptional stint in the PBL since twd
teams–Purefoods and San Miguel–are
reportedly eyeing his services.

After the smoke of battle had clea
both Baculi and Viva mentor Koy B
known to be devout Christians, bared
had turned to God for signs during the e
championship series.

But in the end, blessings fell on the
that deserved it more.

Clinching the Sunkist-PBL 2003 L
Cup is a destiny fulfilled for Baculi, wh
nally found the answer why he crossed p
anew with Lamoiyan Corp. owner Cecil

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ERNIE U.SARMIENTO

TWO-TIME MVP Rich Alvarez hopes to give Ateneo a second straight crown.
ROMY HOMILLADA

Archers face tough climb back to the top

FRANZ Pumaren's a busy man nowadays.

Aside from being a full-time father and Quezon City councilor, Pumaren also faces the enormous task of charting La Salle's difficult climb to regain its diadem in the coming 66th UAAP basketball wars.

PUMAREN

But while he's negotiating a virtual minefield in trying to mould a rookie-laden team to the promised land, Pumaren surely knows how to play handle all the pressure.

For a man facing an enormous challenge, the veteran coach, owner of four straight UAAP titles from 1998 to 2001, surely looks like he's ready for the grind.

A year ago the Green Archers missed the glorious five-peat courtesy of their bitterest rivals–the Ateneo Blue Eagles.

"There's life after losing to Ateneo. In life, you win some, you lose some," Pumaren said.

"We've already accepted the fact that last year wasn't our year. We didn't despair, rather we've tried to learn from our mistakes."

A coach, who is concerned with the slightest details, Pumaren knows that the whole La Sallian community, whose passion for basketball excellence is legendary, will watch his every move come the UAAP starting on July 12 at the historic Big Dome.

Pumaren easily picks Ateneo, Far Eastern University and University of the East, respectively, as favored teams, leaving La Salle in the middle of the field.

Just like Pumaren, team manager Terry Capistrano and deputy Manny Salgado aren't in the mood to make predictions which will "rock" the sporting world.

Capistrano, a successful businessman and sports benefactor, and Salgado, whose heft and built is as large as his concern for the Archers, said the team is aiming to reach the Final Four.

"Then, we'll take it from there," said Capistrano, whose low-key approach to the game helped La Salle triumph during the 2000 and 2001 seasons.

The reliables are Mac Cardona, rookie Jerwin Gaco, Manny Ramos, Ty Tang Joseph Yeo, Junjun Cabatu and Carlo Sharma. *Dennis U. Eroa*

nti-drug crusade

theme "A family through time."

Also present in the weekly session sponsored by Photokina were Commissioner Graham Lim, Mapua's Ding Lozano, PCU's Jimmy Mariano and UPHR's Butch Fortes, who all supported the NCAA policy against drugs.

Gusi also announced that a new rule now allows NCAA players to play in the PBL after only two years of competing with the same school.

"Before it was three years, but upon study we believe that the modification will benefit not only the players but the league as well," said Gusi.

Five UAAP mentors–UP's Lito Vergara, La Salle's Franz Pumaren, Ateneo's Joel Banal, NU's Rico Perez and Boyzie Zamar of the Univ. of the East–were one in saying that the country's premier school league should be free of drugs.

Pumaren, a Quezon City councilor, has in fact filed a proposed ordinance now calendared for second reading which will force athletes and officials who will use venues within Quezon City to undergo drug testing.

The UAAP will start its 66th season on July 12 at the Big Dome, which is within the jurisdiction of Quezon City.

"It's wide in scope," said Pumaren. It's not just basketball but boxing, tennis, volleyball and other sporting events. The thing is we've already learned from what happened in the PBA and we're going to be very, very careful with the procedure."

Banal said he is for drug testing as long as it is error-free and beyond reasonable doubt.

"A player's career can be ruined," Banal said.

Vergara and Perez said there's no problem in drug testing but proper mechanisms should be in place.

"There are performance-enhancing drugs, reducing pills, etc., which may result to positive test," Perez noted.

Vergara and Zamar said drug testing will benefit the league.

"It's been a longtime coming. We should have started at the schools."

se Hapee, s Baculi

COACH Junel Baculi (right) hugs team manager Bernard Yang shortly after the final buzzer ending the Hapee-Viva championship thriller.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

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Pedro.

"Actually, after my stint with Richard Gordon's Olongapo volunteers in the MBA, I actually wanted to take a rest and take a vacation in the US," Baculi said.

"*Maraming tumatawag* offering me a coaching job. But when I got this *call from Mr. Pedro,* parang may nagtulak sa akin to get this job. I felt it was more of a mission *kaya 'di na naman natuloy ang bakasyon ko,*" he added.

"I do believe it was God's hands at work. We were looking for a new coach at timing *naman* that Baculi was free. Then everything came into place," echoed Pedro.

Taipei Jones Cup derailed by SARS, new tourney set

By Roy Luarca

FOR 26 years, the Williams Jones Cup basketball tournament ran uninterrupted. It will grind to a halt this year, derailed by the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) scare which gripped Asia and Canada.

The cancellation of the tournament, originally scheduled July 25-August 6 in Taipei, was relayed to Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim on Tuesday.

"It's another blow for regional basketball," said Lim. "The Jones Cup is very competitive and we've been consistently sending teams there."

The country was supposed to be represented in the tournament this year by a combined Young Men's and RP Youth team to be handled by Johnny Tam.

Despite the cancellation, however, Tam's team composed of players 16-22 years old will continue training for future international competitions.

Australia's Great Mates ruled the 2002 Jones Cup at the expense of a Canadian university squad. The Philippines, represented by a selection from the defunct Metropolitan Basketball Association, wound up fifth.

The Philippines finished fourth in the 2000 and 2001 Jones Cup.

The last time the Filipinos topped the tournament was in 1998, through the star-studded RP Centennial Team of the Philippine Basketball Association.

In 1985, the Northern Cement Consolidated (NCC), powered by Americans Dennis Still, Jeff Moore and Chip Engelland and local superstars Samboy Lim and Allan Caidic stunned an American selection to emerge champion.

The organizing Chinese Taipei Basketball Association informed Lim that another tournament is being planned in August to fill up the void left by the Jones Cup.

> The Jones Cup is part of our **build-up** for the Southeast Asian Games

"We intend to participate in this replacement tournament," said Lim. "The Jones Cup is part of our build-up for the Southeast Asian Games and the Asian Basketball Confederation Men's Championship."

SARS also caused the cancellation of the Southeast Asia Basketball Association (SEABA) Men's Championship slated in Manila last month.

To compensate for the cancelled tournaments, Lim said a Philippine team will be sent to Fujian, China in October.

NCAA LINE-UPS

79TH SEASON

Philippine Christian University DOLPHINS
Coach: Jimmy Mariano
Players: Ian Garrido(r) 4 forward 6'4; Ramon Retaga 5 guard 5'7; Joseph Roque #6 Guard 6'1; Chrisanto Mamangon(r) 7 forward 6'2; Carlos Martin Cecilia(r) 8 guard 6'3; Robert Sanz #9 Guard 6'3; Gabriel Espinas(r) 10 center 6'5; Yenz Salangsang(r) #11 forward 6'4; Michael Vincent Belga (r) 12 center 6'4; Ray Francis Benitez (r) 14 guard 6'2; Jerson Torculas (r) guard 6'0; Arden Guiyab 15 center 6'6; Jamil Acraman #16 Forward 6'1; Jason Castro #17 Guard 6'0; Jericho Gementiza 18 guard 6'0; Kent Senining #19 Forward 6'1; Reynald Dabu (r) 20 forward 6'4

Colegio de San Juan de Letran KNIGHTS
Coach: Louie Alas
Players: Radjan Dale Santos 5 Guard 5'10; Mark Fedelicio 6 Guard 5'8; Mark Balneg 7 forward 6'2; Boyet Bautista #8 Pointed 5'7; Ronjay Enrile #9 Guard 5'11; Frederick Rodriguez #10 Center 6'4; Jonathan Pinera 11 Center 6'5; Jonathan Aldave #12 Guard 6'2; Kris Reyes 13 forward 6'4; Michael John Realista 14 forward 6'4; Billy Ray Anabo 15 forward 6'3; Aaron Aban 17 forward 6'3; Norman Ebajay 18 forward 6'2; Mikko Quinday 20 forward 6'2; Harold Sta Cruz #14 Forward 6'3.

College of St. Benilde BLAZERS
Coach: Tonichi Yturri
Players: Jed Evangelista #4 guard 5'10; Ronald Capati #5 Center/Forward 6'5; Alejandro Magpayo #6 Forward/Center 6'3; Carlo Paguio (r) 7 forward 6'3; Ernie Sagad 8 center 6'4; Verman Reyes #9 Guard/Forward 6'0; UnikReyes 11 center 6'4; Frederick Ang (r) 13 guard 5'8; Shahjahan Delgado (r) 14 guard 5'10; Estelitus Mendoza 15 guard 5'10; Paolo Orbeta #16 Point Guard 5'10; Juan Luis Abad 17 guard 5'10; Archimedes David 19 forward/center 6'5; Carlo Manding 20 forward 6'2; Gilbert Sanidad 21 guard 6'1; Hans Schulze 22 center 6'4; Jay Sagad #16 Forward/Center 6'3

Jose Rizal University HEAVY BOMBERS
Coach: Boy de Vera
Players: Lester Mark Lindaya (r) 1 guard 5'9; Cesar Estolano 4 center 6'4; McDonald Santos #5 Center 6'4; Jayson Ngo 6 guard 5'8; WynsJohn Te #7 Guard 5'10; Jenciano Domangcas(r) 8 guard 5'11; Cooper Paul Paule #9 Guard 5'8; Kenneth CoYuKang 10 center 6'5; Edward Attunaga #11 OffGuard 6'0; Michael Magtahao 13 guard 6'0; Virgilio Serios (r) 14 forward 6'2; Merlin De Vera #15 Forward 6'1; Mark Anthony Barboran #16 Forward 6'4; Raymond Jorge 17 forward 6'4; William Nicolas (r) guard 5'9; Marco Paolo Fajardo #18 Guard 6'2;

Mapua Institute of Technology CARDINALS
Coach: Horacio Lim
Players: Robby David 4 guard 5'11; Tristan Yogi Veranga #5 Forward 6'2; Joferson Gonzales 6 guard/forward 6'3; Hermes Sumalinog Jr. (R 7 forward 6'1; Nathaniel Cruz #8 Center 6'4; Jeffrey Martin 9 guard 5'8; Andrew Lloyd Salud 10 forward/center 6'4; Reymond Dula #11 Center 6'5; Gilbert Migraso #12 Guard 6'0; Sean Christopher Co (R) 13 guard 6'0; Raymond Gorospe (R) 14 guard 6'1; Jerby Del Rosario (R) 15 center 6'5; Christian Guevarra #16 Guard 6'3; Ryan Malig #17 Guard 6'0; Oliver Sanoy (R) 18 guard 5'9; forward/center 6'4

San Beda College RED LIONS
Coach: Jonathan Reyes
Players: Joven Padilla (R) 4 Pt Guard 5'5; Arjun Cordero #5 Forward 6'3; Martin Antonio (R)* 6 Forward 6'4; Alexander Angeles 7 guard 5'11; John Bomboo #8 Guard 6'1; Mark Apepe 9 forward 6'2; Marvin Baldivia #10 Guard 6'1, onnie Bughao 11 guard 5'11; Carlo Weber #12 Guard 6'3"; Francis Cruz(R) 13 Pt Guard 5'10; Timothy Ong 14 forward/center 6'4; Marco Arbole #15 Forward 6'2; Michael Casino (R) 16 Forward 6'4; James Hudencial #17 Forward 6'3, Jerome Paterno #18 Forward 6'5;

University of Perpetual Help (ALTAS)
Coach: Bai Cristobal ALTAS (official)
Players: Kiehl Misa(R) 4 guard 5'9; Gerald Botin #5 forward 6'2; Vladymir Joe 6 center 6'4; Wayne Santos 8 forward 6'0, Mark Tayor 9 forward 6'0, Javier Dominador 11 guard 5'11, Daryl Dale Mendoza 13 forward 6'4; Marcel Cuengco #14 Center/Fwd 6'4; Roland Burgos 16 guard/forward 6'0, James Quiazon #17 Guard 5'7, Mark Aseron #15 Forward 6'2; 12 Romel Balboa #19 Center 6'4; Noynoy Javier #6 Guard 5'11; Ferdie Ali-ali #7 Forward 63; Roland Burgos #12 Guard 6'0; 16 Robert Lee Banzon (R), Maw Cagoco (R)

San Sebastian College- Recoletos STAGS
Coach: Turo Valenzona
Players: Victor Manociang #4 Guard 5'8; NicoleUy #5 Guard/Forward 6'4; Redentor Vicente Jr #6 Guard 6'1, Mark Revoche(R) 7 Forward/Center 6'2, Christopher Baluyot #8 GuardIForward 6'4"; Erwin Estole(R) 9 Guard/Forward 6'1, Danie Lim 10 Guard 5'11; MichaelGonzales #11 PointGuard 5'9; Mark Santos #12 Forward 6'2, Raymond Aguilar (R)* 13 Forward/Center 6'4, Leomar Najorda #14 Forward 6'4, Clark Moore #15 Center/Forward 6'7, Mark Legarde #16 Forward 6'4, Venacio Rebuya, Jr. (R) 17 Forward 6'2, Marco Alcaraz (R) 18Forward/center 6'3

MayniLA wins anew

MAYNILA banked on a three-pronged attack to rout Pampanga Bulls, 97-80, Thursday night and retain the lead in the National Basketball League national championship at the Lyceum of the Philippines gym.

Outside gunners Ralph Rivera and Ernani Epondulan and inside force Francis Sanz combined for 60 points as MayniLA cruised to its fifth straight win against no losses.

Rivera scored 21 points, Epondulan 20 and Sanz 19 for MayniLA, which is backed by businessman Bert Lina and the Atienza brothers, Councilor Kim and Manila Sports Council chair Ali.

The youthful Bulls fell to 3-2.

Forward Taguig relied on a strong finishing kick to beat Spring Cooking Oil, 95-88, in the opener.

Taguig leveled its record at 2-2 while Spring suffered its seventh straight loss. *Roy Luarca*

GRUDGE GAMES

Archers tackle Knights

Games Today (*Makati Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—St. Benilde vs AdU
4 p.m.—La Salle vs Letran

THE REUNION match between the De La Salle Green Archers and the Letran Knights will be the highlight of the Champions League Grudge Games at 4 p.m. today at the Makati Coliseum.

Decades ago, the Archers and the Knights figured in a bench-emptying and crowd-involving melee that occupied a chapter in the rich National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball lore at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Archers have brought their act to the University Athletic Association of the Philippines, where they've won four of the last five championships, while the Knights have stayed in the NCAA.

It would be interesting therefore to see how the Archers of coach Dindo Pumaren would fare against the Knights of coach Louie Alas.

Among the notable Archers are Jun Limpot and, of late, Mike Cortez; while the Knights have produced the likes of Samboy Lim and Terry Saldaña.

Two former Archers who have turned coaches—Tonichi Yturri of St. Benilde and Luigi Trillo of Adamson—figure in a battle of the brains when their teams clash at 2 p.m. in the pre-tournament sponsored by Petron, San Miguel, PCSO, Milo and Adidas.

St. Benilde is with the NCAA while Adamson is a long-standing member in the UAAP.

Late Thursday night, University of the Philippines, benefiting from closing-minute turnovers by NCAA champion San Sebastian, stunned the Stags, 80-75, with Artemio Almeda scoring 14 points.

Pep Moore led the Stags with 22 points.

Nine teams from this phase will receive invitations to the post-tournament and join 23 other seeded teams to the championships, according to tournament commissioner Ramon Fernandez.

MIKE Cortez: Former La Salle star.

SPORTSWATCH

SBP/Passerelle meeting

THE 18TH SBP/Passerelle basketball tournament will hold an organizational meeting at 3 p.m. on June 26 at the Quezon City Sports Club along E. Rodriguez Ave. The meeting will tackle the rules, grouping and schedule of the country's biggest youth school cagefest. Last year's participating schools as well as new ones that can follow the five-man rule requirement (that they must have at least five members who have joined the Milo Best Center Clinic) are invited to compete, according to tournament commissioner Roly Ocampo and his assistant, Monica Jorge. Interested parties may call 411-6260.

Subic Bay tennis clinic

THE SUBIC Bay International Tennis Center School-Philippines will hold the junior weekend clinics for beginners, intermediate and advanced starting today. Those interested may call 047-252-2884/85 or fax 047-282-2886. The clinics will be handled by Davis Cupper Beeyong Sison, national coach Martin Misa and former junior stalwart Francis Factura. Also helping in the project are Arnel and Andy Salaysay. Meanwhile, AJ, Mary and Martina Rivero, Ivy Jarin and Roman Floreza emerged winners in the recent Coca-Cola nonranking junior events at the SBITC. *D. Eroa*

2 sepak takraw tourneys

PUERTO Princesa City will host the BIMP-EAGA (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, East Asian Growth Area) Friendship Games and the 2003 National Open Men and Women Amateur Sepak Takraw Championships next month. Assisting the Philippine Amateur Sepak Takraw Association (Pasta) and Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn in hosting the events are Palawan Gov. Mario Joel Reyes and Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain. Pasta secretary general Col. Romarico Calderon Sr. said the BIMP-EAGA FG is set July 20 to 27 while the National Open is slated July 20-25. At least 28 teams, led by Palawan and Mindanao, will participate in the BIMP-EAGA while more than 20 teams are expected for the National Open.

Saturday Checkmate starts

THE FOURTH series of Milo Checkmate Saturday-only clinic starts today at the following venues: Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Vito Cruz, Manila; Jollibee-Greenhills Shopping Center Branch and J & F Divino Bldg. located at #967 Aurora Blvd. beside St. Joseph Church near Anonas St. in Quezon City. Clinic at RMSC will be held from 8 a.m.-12 nn at the Badminton Bldg.; Jollibee-GSC 1:30-5:30 p.m., and at J & F 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-6 p.m. at the arcade's fourth level. Open to children who are 5 years old and above, enrollees are advised to proceed at the venue of their choice at least 30 minutes before the clinic starts. For details, call MCC at 826-8560 and 0916-8521069.

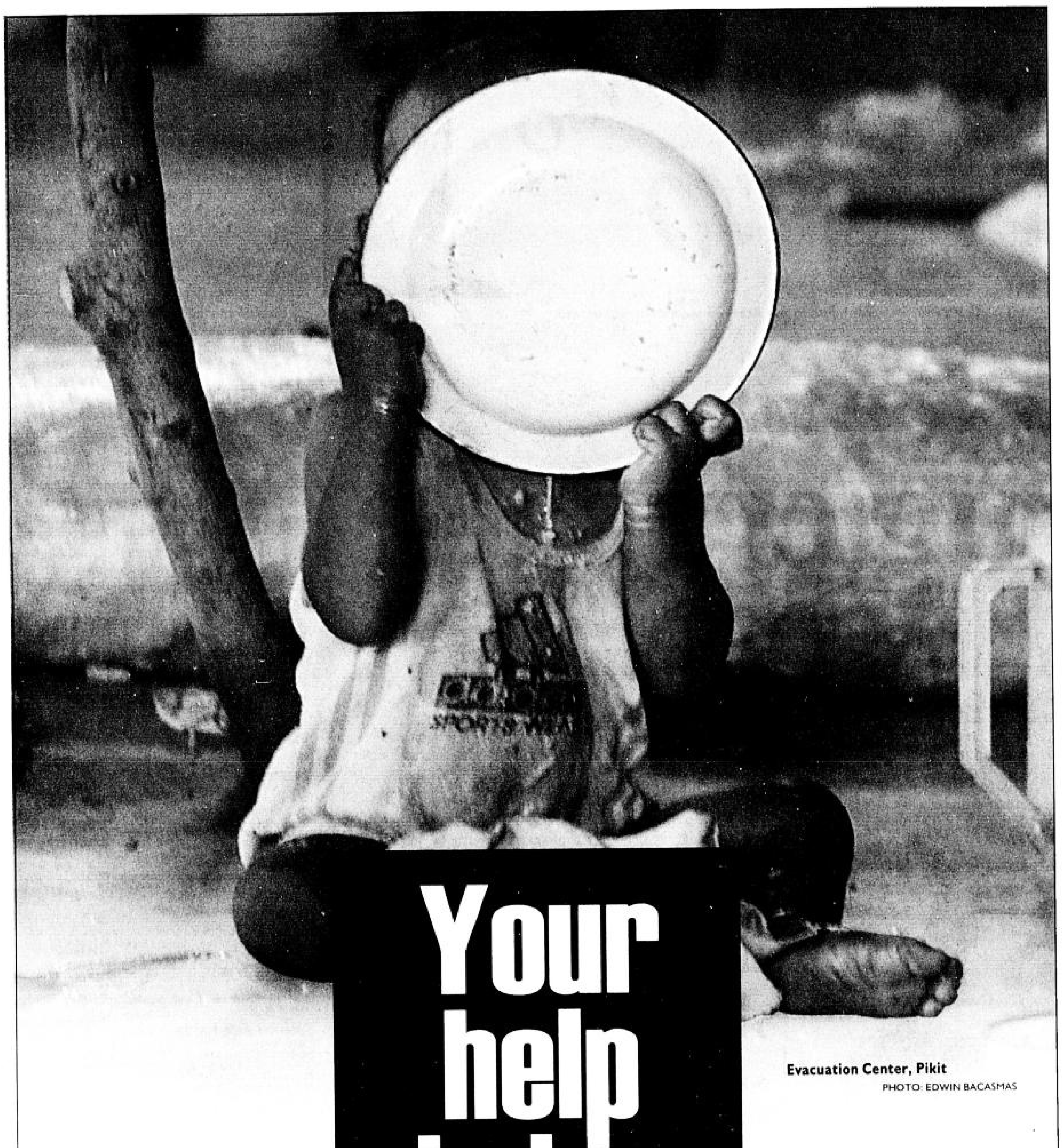
SCNHS booters prevail

SURIGAO CITY—Surigao City National High School (SCNHS) nipped Pacemco, 2-1, in overtime to clinch the local title in the Red Ribbon Bakeshop Under-14 Football Festival at the provincial grandstand field here. Celso Cabuga struck in the extra period for the marginal goal. Surstact finished third by holding off Surigao Norte National High School (SNNHS), 3-2, in the other match. SCNHS shaded Surstact, 2-1, while SNNHS nosed out Pacemco, 1-0, in the crossover semifinal matches.

SPORTS noodle

ANSWERS **From page A22**

1. True (It was invented by Ronnie Pasola.)
2. Canadian (He was born in Almonte, Ontario, Canada.)
3. Judo
4. Table tennis
5. Ice rink (It's the tractor-like machine that resurfaces the ice.)
6. Parcheesi (In the 1570s in India.)
7. Roller skates (He hadn't thought about the problem of brakes then.)


Your help is his hope.

Evacuation Center, Pikit
PHOTO: EDWIN BACASMAS

Cash donations may be deposited at any of the Tabang Mindanaw accounts in the following banks nationwide:

BPI: Peso Account No. - 0011-1507-64;
US Dollar Account No.: 0012-002Q5-64
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Metrobank: 3066-3103-46
Chinabank: 1300-3951-13
RCBC: 3000-6992-32

Areas with evacuation centers:
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For P500.00 you can give a child's family a ray of hope

For one week, an evacuee-family of five could be provided with a daily meal and relief aid.

For further inquiries, please call up the Tabang Mindanaw Secretariat c/o Assisi Development Foundation, Inc. Units 503-506 Prestige Tower, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.
Tel. Nos. 632-1001 to 03/636-5855
E-mail : tabang@mindgate.net

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Let's be there in their time of need.

Hewitt accuses ATP of deception, persecution

HEWITT: They tried to set me up. AFP

SYDNEY—Lleyton Hewitt has accused the body that runs the world tennis tour of persecuting him for years, at one point allegedly trying to dupe him into refusing a drug test in a ploy that would have copped him a two-year playing ban, it was reported Friday.

The Melbourne Age said Hewitt, currently the world's number 2 player, made the allegations in papers filed this week in an Australian court as part of a 1.5 million US dollar defamation suit against the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP).

In his lawsuit, Hewitt, 22, listed incidents dating back to December 1998 as evidence of ATP malice against him.

Among other allegations, Hewitt said he was approached in Zurich last October by a man conducting out-of-competition drug testing for the ATP who asked him to sign a document that turned out to be a refusal to undertake drug tests.

"The individual had not identified himself or his authority before asking that the form be signed," the papers said.

"If Hewitt had signed ... he would have been banned from professional tennis for two years," the *Age* quoted the papers as saying.

In other allegations, Hewitt claims the ATP suspended his membership from December 1998 to March 1999 for failing to attend the "ATP University"–a professional training course.

He also said the ATP threatened to withdraw his wildcard entry at a Key Biscayne, Florida, tournament in March 1999 unless he undertook a medical examination he claimed was unnecessary. *AFP*

Agassi still a threat at 33

WIMBLEDON, England—There was a time when Andre Agassi could do without the All England Club, its traditions and, especially, its courts.

When he was too cool and too technicolor to wear white, when he was unsure whether his gifted returns and baseline strokes would win on grass.

Not these days. Agassi, one of five men with a career Grand Slam, realizes there might not be too many major tournaments in his future, so he focuses his efforts on preparing intensely for each one, Wimbledon included.

He'll be ranked No. 1–at 33, the oldest to lead the ATP Tour–and seeded No. 2 behind defending champion Lleyton Hewitt when play begins Monday.

"I grab these moments a lot tighter than I used to," Agassi says.

"I don't have a lot of time left, regardless of how long I can stretch it. The question to me is not how long I have. It is where I stand now, and what my goals are–what I am still able to accomplish."

Hey, the guy even went out and played a grass-court tuneup at Queen's Club, reaching the semifinals before losing to eventual champion Andy Roddick.

In the past, Agassi usually skipped such events, coming cold to Wimbledon, where he won the first of his eight Grand Slam titles in 1992. He also was runner-up in 1999 to seven-time Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras, who has withdrawn from every tournament he entered this year and might never play again.

This will be the first Wimbledon since 1988 without Sampras. One without Agassi can't be too far off.

"I do believe that as you get older, you have a stronger ability to embrace the rare moments, and you become more aware of how rare they are," Agassi says. "To win Wimbledon again would be quite an incredible accomplishment for me."

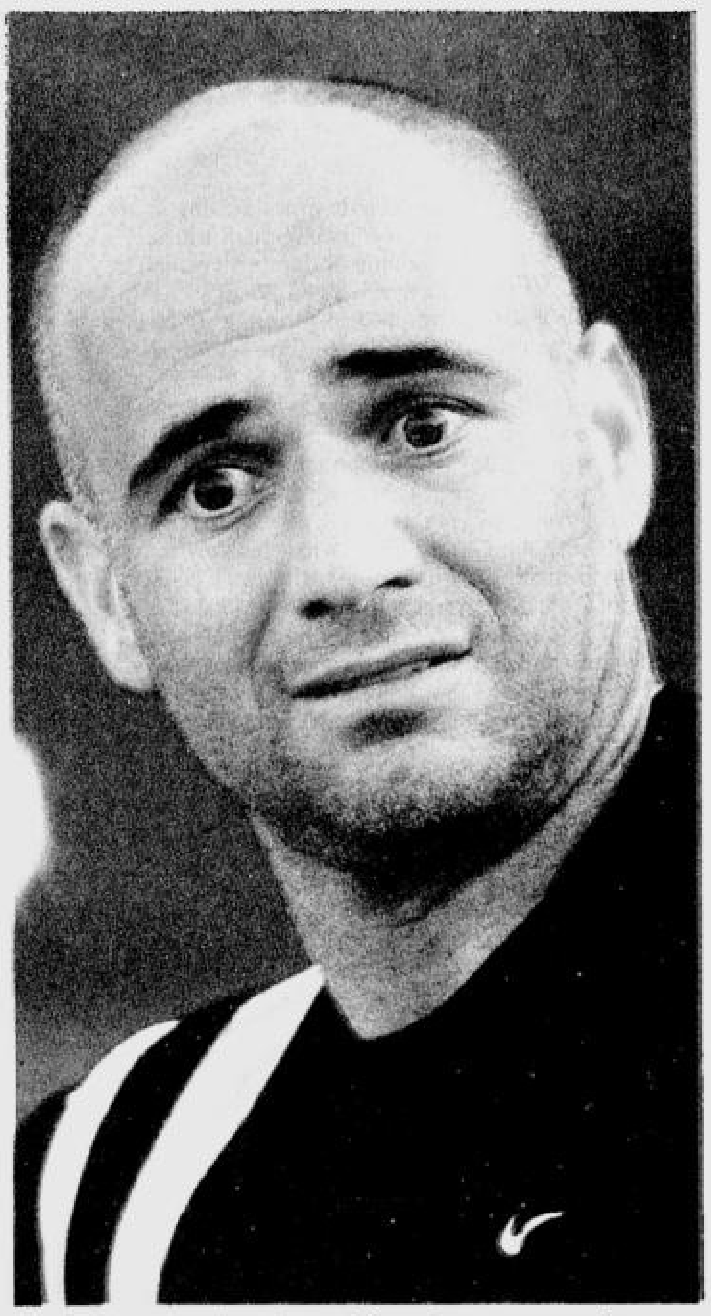
The locals, of course, would rather see a first-time champion: Tim Henman, to be precise. Henman never fared as well at other majors as here–but his countrymen aren't concerned about other majors.

They want a British men's champion at Wimbledon to succeed Fred Perry in 1936.

How intense is the attention on Henman, a semifinalist four of the past five years? One front-page headline after Agassi and Sampras were upset in the second round last year: "No pressure Timbo, but choke now and we'll never forgive you."

"There's going to be a lot of pressure and expectation just like always on him, but he handles it as well as anyone," said Hewitt, who eliminated Henman in 2002. "What he's done making semifinals year after year is pretty impressive."

One would think Henman would break through, given the way men's tennis spreads the wealth. Names such as Johannson, Schuettler, Nalbandian and Verkerk dot the roster of recent major finalists. *AP*



ANDRE Agassi realizes there might not be too many major tournaments in his future, so he tries to focus on each one. AP

Stage set for another sisters act

LONDON—They could hardly be more different but to most observers they have become simply "the Belgian sisters."

They speak different languages and adopt different styles but Kim Clijsters and Justine Henin-Hardenne are united not only by a flag but by a common desire–to thwart the mighty Williams sisters on the grand-slam stage.

At Wimbledon, which starts on Monday, the showdown promises to be enthralling.

Clijsters is seeded second for the grasscourt grand slam, in the bottom half of the draw with fourth seed Venus Williams, the elder of the two genuine sisters.

Henin-Hardenne is seeded third, tucked high up in champion Serena's half. The machinations of the draw mean another all-Williams final is possible.

Or a second successive all-Belgian grand slam showpiece.

The Belgians smashed apart the phenomenal Williams stranglehold on the slams in Paris earlier this month when Henin-Hardenne beat Clijsters in the final of the French Open. *Reuters*

Krajicek calls it quits

ROSMALEN, Netherlands—Former Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek announced his retirement from tennis Thursday, saying that pain in his elbow had made it impossible for him to vie at the highest level. *AP*

Lewis heaviest ever for title bout

LOS ANGELES—Lennox Lewis tipped the scales for his world heavyweight title defense against Ukrainian Vitali Klitschko at a beefy 256 1/2 pounds on Thursday, the heaviest the Briton has ever weighed for a fight.

Weighing seven and a half pounds more than he did when he last climbed into the ring a year ago to take on Mike Tyson, a surprised gasp swept through a modest crowd at the weigh-in conducted in front of the Staples Center.

"Whatever he weighs, he looks good and I'm satisfied," trainer Emanuel Steward told Reuters, shrugging off any suggestion that 37-year-old Lewis (40-2-1, 31 KOs) was not fit or had taken the fight lightly.

"He's been training and training good, he's a big guy and he looks good. He's in great shape and sparring more than he ever has and that's what he weighs, I'm happy about it." Klitschko (32-1, 31 KOs) also added some weight for Saturday's WBC and IBO bout, tipping the scales at 248 pounds.

Promoters said that made it the heaviest heavyweight title fight in history at a combined 504 1/2 pounds.

The 6-foot-7 Klitschko, a late replacement for Kirk Johnson after the Canadian was injured in training, has fought at 249 pounds but was down to 244 and 246 for his last two fights.

The most Lewis had previously weighed for a bout was 253 pounds against Hasim Rahman in April 2001, a fight he lost in five rounds as the American picked up the WBC and IBF titles.

Seven months later, Lewis, a trim 246 pounds, hit back to reclaim the titles with a fourth-round knockout of Rahman.

"I think the Hasim Rahman fight put him (Lewis) in the state of mind where he'll never relax going into a fight," said Steward. "I'm not at all worried about his weight." *Reuters*

Montgomery taunts Greene with fast time

STANFORD, California—With archrival Maurice Greene watching from the stands, Tim Montgomery began his bid for the 100-meter national title with an impressive race on a wind-swept Thursday.

Montgomery ran the fastest first-round time of 10.04 seconds, matching his best mark of the year, on the first night of the US track and field championships.

Montgomery, who broke Greene's world record last year, is aiming this year at Greene's streak of three straight world titles. Montgomery needs to finish in the top three in Friday's final to qualify for the world championships in August in Paris.

Greene, who automatically qualifies as defending champion, proclaimed Wednesday that no one would run under 10 seconds at the national meet. Montgomery, who has been sparring verbally with Greene for years, said he'll prove his rival wrong in the final.

"I feel great. I think we'll see something very, very special on Friday," Montgomery said. "Maurice Greene should buy a lottery ticket if he's so smart."

The 100 heats were switched to the backstretch, across the field from the main stands and the normal finish line, because of the wind. A few dozen fans lined the fence at the finish line.

The biggest surprise of the first round was Justin Gatlin's failure to advance. The 60-meter indoor world champion, Gatlin is expected to be a future sprinting great. *AP*

CAMEROON striker Samuel Eto'o (center) chases a through ball off Brazilian defender Juan. AFP

Cameroon shocks world champ Brazil

LYON, France—Cameroon proved that even Brazil's vast talent pool cannot replace Ronaldo and Rivaldo at will. A stunning upset needed a stunning goal and Samuel Eto'o obliged Thursday to give the African champions a 1-0 win over the world champions in the Confederations Cup.

Punishing Brazil's lackluster approach to the game, Mallorca's Eto'o pounced on a defensive error, split two central defenders and sent a looping first-time volley from well outside the penalty area over Dida for the winner eight minutes from time.

The result pushed Cameroon atop the Group B standings alongside Turkey, which beat the United States 2-1.

From now on, Brazil is playing for survival in the tournament. Ronaldinho, the remaining R of the World Cup's famed "triple R" attack, was mostly a non-factor.

As lethargic as the Brazilians were, so the Africans were as eager to wipe out the disgrace of their first-round exit in the World Cup.

Turkey confirmed its World Cup stature.

It came from behind to beat the United States with Tuncay Sanli earning a penalty and scoring the decider to boost the World Cup bronze medalist's chances in the tournament.

"We were in control over the full 90 minutes and should have won by a bigger margin," Turkey coach Senol Gunes said.

The Americans went ahead after 36 minutes on a counterattack when Landon Donovan broke through to cross to striker DaMarcus Beasley who made the header.

A few minutes later, Tuncay, Turkey's best player, threatened through the middle and was sandwiched by two defenders, earning a penalty Okan Yilmaz clinically converted in the 39th. AP

Real Madrid on target for 29th La Liga crown

MADRID, Spain—David Beckham may still dominate headlines two days after his transfer to Real Madrid, but distraction is the last thing his new club needs as it heads into Sunday's title decider against Athletic de Bilbao.

Madrid, two points clear of Real Sociedad at the top of the standings, will lift the Spanish League crown for the 29th time if it defeats the Basque club in the final round of matches.

If sixth-place Bilbao, still battling with Barcelona for a UEFA Cup place, manages to snatch at least a point at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium, Sociedad will win the championship for the first time since 1982 but only if it defeats No. 11 Atletico de Madrid.

If the two teams finish level on points, Sociedad would take the title on head-to-head results.

The situation is almost a replica of the league of 23 years ago, when Madrid hosted Bilbao and Sociedad played Atletico in the final round. Madrid took the title. *AP*

Sosa stopped as Reds prevail in heated game

CHICAGO Cubs pitcher Kyle Farnsworth (top) fights with Cincinnati Reds pitcher Paul Wilson in the seventh inning. AP

CINCINNATI—Paul Wilson held Sammy Sosa to a harmless single in seven strong innings Thursday before being bloodied and ejected during Cincinnati's second brawl in a week as the Reds beat the Chicago Cubs 3-1.

Wilson and Kyle Farnsworth went after each other in the bottom of the seventh, after the hard-throwing Cubs reliever threw him an inside fastball as he tried to bunt. Wilson whirled and yelled at the mound, and the two pitchers charged each other.

Farnsworth tackled Wilson with his right shoulder, knocking the Reds pitcher on his back, then threw a punch that appeared to miss his face. They were quickly engulfed by teammates.

The two pitchers were the only ones ejected. Wilson (5-4), who gave up only three hits, had a cut on the bridge of his nose that left blood spattered across his white jersey.

Scott Williamson got the final three outs for his 17th save in 18 chances. The Cubs loaded with the bases with one out before pinch-hitters Lenny Harris and Troy O'Leary struck out.

Mark Prior (8-3) couldn't get comfortable on the mound, which pitchers complain is flat. *AP*

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

GOLF: PGA Eurotour Highlights; 12 noon (r); Star Sports—Portugal is the latest destination of golf's best players.

US Open; 3:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. (r); ESPN—Take a look back at the third round of golf's second major on the calendar.

Buick Classic; 10 p.m. (r) and tomorrow at 3 a.m.; Star Sports—Witness the ecstasy and agony as second and third round action continue from Rye, New York.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS

Jerome outlasts Juvic at Forest

By Jong Arcano

MORE than anything, Jerome Delariarte wanted the television set staked for the division winner for his new pad in Alabang near his training venues. He almost didn't get it.

Delariarte, recovering from a disastrous front nine with four straight birdies from the 10th, clinched the top prize only after chief rival Juvic Pagunsan bogeyed the last two holes yesterday in the Samsung Amateur Tour kick-off leg at Forest Hills.

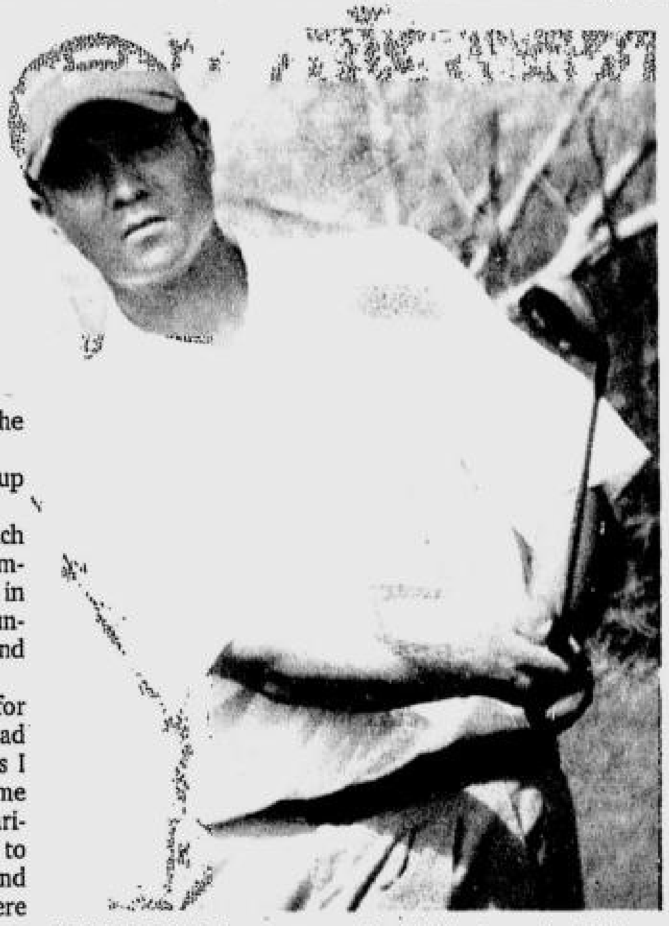
The duel was close for most of the round with Delariarte leading just by one going to the 17th over Pagunsan. But a two-shot swing on a birdie by Delariarte against Pagunsan's bogey dashed the hopes of the SEA Games gold medalist.

Kicking off their bids with similar rounds of 73 on Thursday, Southwoods frontliner Delariarte posted a 71 for a 144 aggregate against the 148 of Pagunsan, who closed out with a bogey for a 75, in the championship division of the 36-hole event serving as the first of eight elimination legs.

Ronnie Torrecampo wound up third with his 75-76-151.

Delariarte received his 20-inch Samsung television set from Samsung bossman Sang Youl Eom in the awarding ceremonies. Pagunsan went home with a DVD and Torrecampo a microwave oven.

"That was some hard work for my TV but I need it for my pad and that's what kept my focus I think. You really can't get some things the easy way," said Delariarte now renting a pad close to his Southwoods home course and Southpoint driving range where he trains under Bong Lopez.



DELARIARTE: Four consecutive birdies from the 10th.

Domingo rules Dagupan race

ENRIQUE Domingo led Pangasinenses to a 1-2-3 finish in the Araw ng Dagupan Criterium Race Thursday.

Domingo of San Carlos City clocked 2 hours, 45 minutes and 22 seconds for the 110-km distance, pulling away from 2003 Tour Pilipinas titlist Arnel Quirimit and Nilo Estayo, who crossed the finish line together 45 seconds later.

Quirimit and Estayo, both of Pozzorubio, edged fourth placer Joel Calderon and 1998 Marlboro Tour champion Warren Davadilla at the finish line in downtown Dagupan.

Thirty-five of the 54 cyclists who answered the starting gun finished the race, which was part of the celebrations of the city's 56th founding anniversary. Domingo received P8,000 plus a trophy from Dagupan Mayor Benjie Lim.

Danao lures top mountain bikers

CEBU CITY—Ruel Casaljay and Placido Valdez are among the 200 bikers who will troop to Danao City on June 28 when they see action in the 2003 National Open Mountain Bike Championships.

Joining Casaljay and Valdez, the country's top bikers, are Hilario Lada, Jojo Cortes and Feliciano Jose. Cebuano mountain bike star Nino Surban will be going up against these national team members. He placed second in the Asian Mountainbike Championship in Taipei last year. This is a qualifying tournament for the Athens Olympic and the Asian Bike Championship in Japan, according to UCI International Commissioner and Danao City Councilor Oscar "Boying" Rodriguez.

Mary Ann Lopez, PDI Visayas Bureau

POC to honor 12 Olympism awardees

THE PRESENTATION of Olympism Awards to individuals and organizations/companies and the launching of the book "The Olympic Movement in the Philippines" will highlight the 109th anniversary celebration of the Olympic Movement on Monday at the Coconut Palace, CCP Complex.

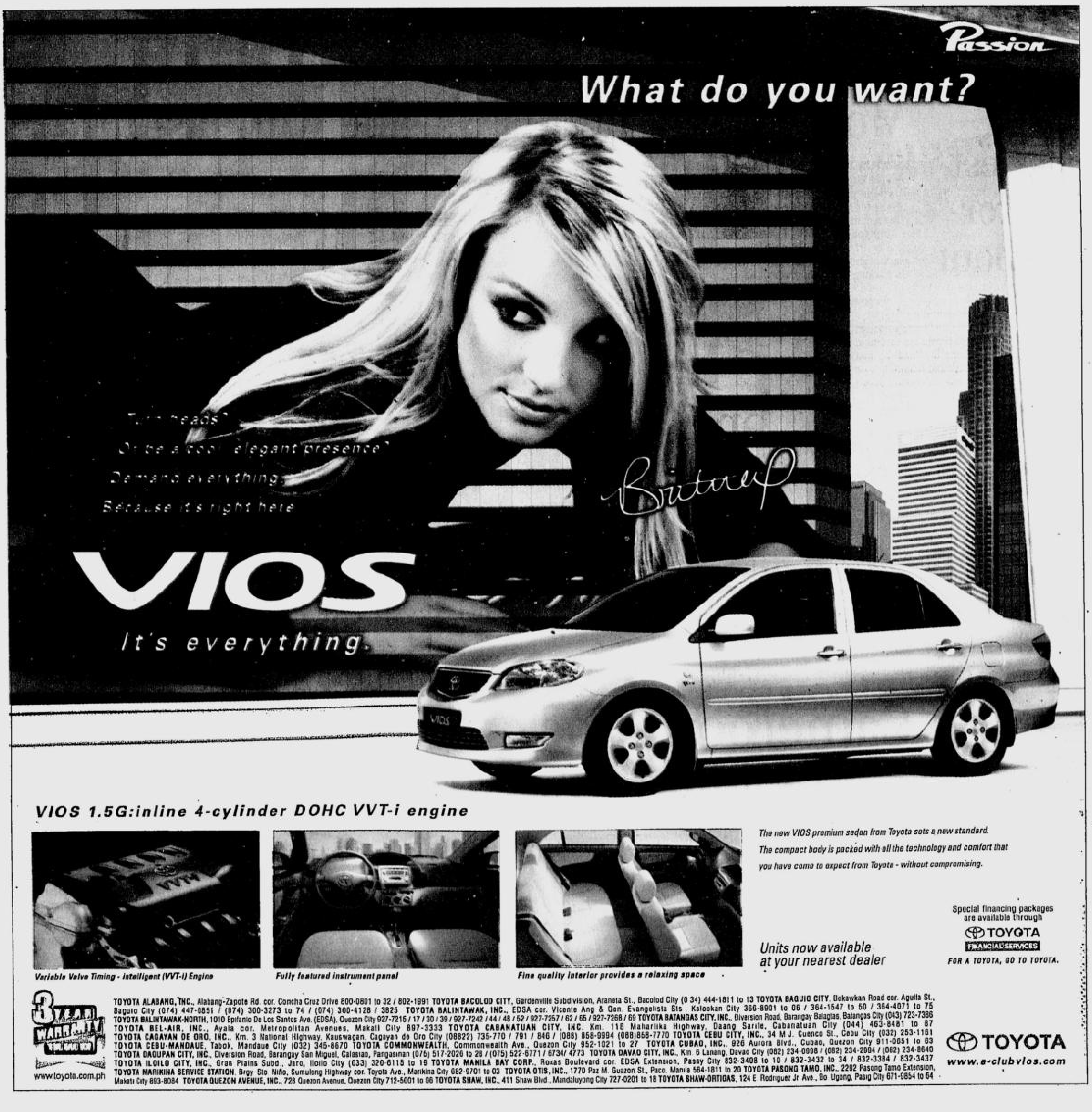
The Olympism awardees will be known during the affair, which starts 6 p.m.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon will be the guest of honor and main speaker.

Other guests include the members of the board of judges for the Olympism Awards, namely Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, Former Olympian Rafael G. Hechanova, former Manila Mayor Mel Lopez Jr., Ma. Olanda T. Ong, former PBA Commissioner Emilio Bernardino Jr. and Carlos A. Velez, the International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines, Francisco Elizalde and the only two Filipino former international federation presidents, Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat II of FIBA and Florencio Campomanes of FIDE.

The Olympism Awards consist of 12 categories—sports education, sports science and medicine, sports and culture, sports photography, sports broadcasting, sports journalism, sports leadership, sports administration, sports coaching/training, sports officiating, sports development and sports support.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso L. Dayrit wrote the book "The Olympic Movement in the Philippines." The POC head will give away copies of the book during the launching.



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Prices of cooking gas seen to rise

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PRICES of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or cooking gas are expected to increase as international contract prices went up by about $22 per metric ton between May and June.

Data from the Department of Energy showed that world contract prices were pegged at $239.77 per metric ton this month from $217.33 in May.

The increase came after an almost $100 decrease between April and May, when contract prices were $315.50 per metric ton.

However, an official of Petron Corp. said the company had no plans yet of changing the price of its Gasul.

"About half of the local LPG industry's supply requirements are produced locally, but an increase in international contract prices would surely affect local prices," the official said.

LPG prices have gone down in the past two months by a total of P49.50 per 11-kilogram cylinder.

Petron's Gasul, which caters to a third of the country's LPG market, now sells between P266 and P276 per 11-kg cylinder.

Officials of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., whose Shellane brand accounts for a fifth of the local market, could not be reached for comment as of press time.

Meantime, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said last week his department had revised its projections on average crude prices for the entire 2003 to $25.25 a barrel from the previous $26.04.

Perez said the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) scare had progressed beyond being merely a health emergency to a negative factor affecting economies in the Asia-Pacific region, resulting in declining economic activities in major Asian countries.

The official said that initial world oil market forecasts showed that the impact of the SARS scare on Asian oil demand would be a reduction of about 70,000 barrels per day (bpd) in the second quarter and 40,000 bpd for the rest of the year.

Global oil consumption is likely to be reduced by 230,000 bpd in the second quarter and 100,000 bpd for the second half, he said.

BSP scales down inflation target to 2.6-3% for 2003

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has further scaled down its inflation outlook for this year to 2.6-3 percent from the earlier projection of 2.9-3.5 percent following the favorable movement in consumer prices.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters yesterday the monetary institution was not expecting that inflation would remain benign for the rest of the year.

Despite the more optimistic outlook, however, the BSP said it was not supportive of proposals to revise the official government targets. Instead, it wanted to maintain some flexibility in monetary management.

The government's official inflation ceiling for the year is much higher at 4.5-5.5 percent.

During the first five months of the year, inflation has averaged at only 2.84 percent. The highest inflation rate so far recorded this year was in February at 3.1 percent.

It was earlier reported that the National Economic and Development Authority wanted the official inflation rate target lowered to 3-3.5 percent.

Asked about plans to cut the BSP's reserve requirements to reduce intermediation cost, Buenaventura said it would depend on whether there was a need to infuse additional liquidity in the system.

The policy-making Monetary Board of the BSP, for its part, will next meet for its monthly policy rate setting in the first week of July.

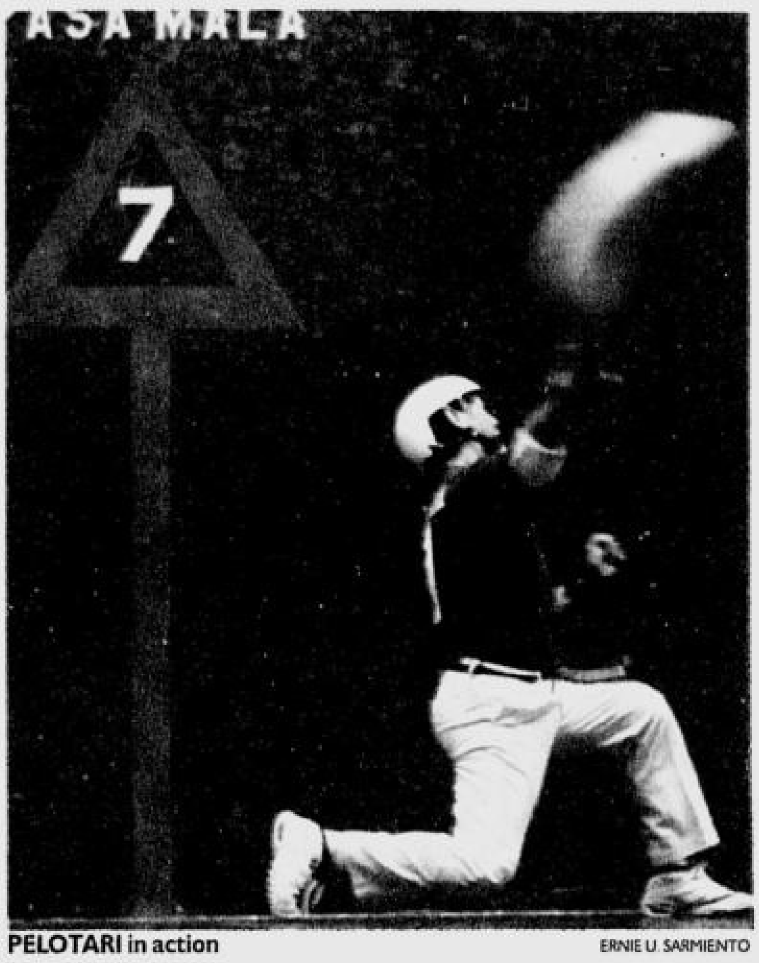
During its last monetary policy setting, the BSP maintained its overnight borrowing rate at 7 percent and its overnight lending rate at 9.25 percent—the same level over the last 15 months--while easing was done through the revival of the tiering system.

The restoration of the tiering system makes it less attractive for banks to place funds with the BSP as the published overnight borrowing rate of 7 percent under the overnight reverse repurchase agreement (RRP) window will be applicable only to the first P5 billion parked with the BSP.

In excess of P5 billion, banks will be paid only a 4-percent rate while in excess of P10 billion, the applicable rate will be one percent.

Another option being consid-

BSP/ B2



PELOTARI in action ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Belle wins court suit on failed jai-alai venture

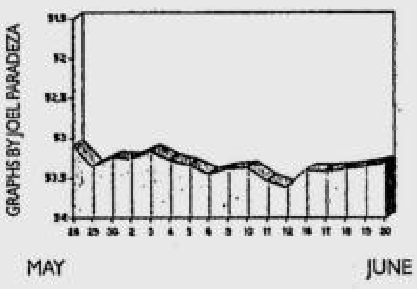
PROPERTY and gaming firm Belle Corp. has won a court battle for damages worth more than P1.5 billion against a state-owned casino operator for a failed joint venture in jai-alai games.

The Manila Regional Trial Court has ordered the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) to return P1.56 billion to Belle, which was spent as pre-operating expenses and goodwill money to the casino operator for

BELLE/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 53.30 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 20, 2003

Y 118.34 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 20, 2003

GOLD: $361.50-362.00
per ounce Hong Kong, June 20, 2003

June 20, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.852878	1.000000	53.397000
Japan	Yen	0.007212	0.008456	0.451500
United Kingdom	Pound	1.432836	1.680000	89.707000
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109361	0.128226	6.846900
Switzerland	Franc	0.649070	0.761035	40.637000
Canada	Dollar	0.635718	0.745379	39.801000
Singapore	Dollar	0.493250	0.578336	30.881400
Australia	Dollar	0.570678	0.669120	35.729000
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.262337	2.652590	141.640300
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.227435	0.266667	14.239200
Brunei	Dollar	0.491828	0.576668	30.792300
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000121	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020492	0.024027	1.283000
UAE	Dirham	0.232228	0.272287	14.539300
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.172500	62.608000
Argentina	Peso	0.305363	0.358038	19.118200
Brazil	Real	0.295522	0.346500	18.502100
Denmark	Kroner	0.134681	0.157913	8.432100
India	Rupee	0.018338	0.021501	1.148100
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.224472	0.263193	14.053700
Mexico	New Peso	0.081304	0.095329	5.090300
New Zealand	Dollar	0.497392	0.583192	31.140700
Norway	Kroner	0.122346	0.143451	7.659900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014779	0.017328	0.925300
South Africa	Rand	0.108266	0.126942	6.778300
Korea	Won	0.000712	0.000835	0.044600
Sweden	Kroner	0.110059	0.129044	6.890600
Syria	Pound	0.020307	0.023810	1.271400
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024722	0.028986	1.547800
Venézuela	Bolivar	0.000535	0.000627	0.033500

STOCK MARKET

Profit-taking drags stocks lower

STOCKS led by telecom leader PLDT closed lower yesterday on more profit-taking as investors ignored the better-than-expected budget deficit data for the period January to May, analysts said.

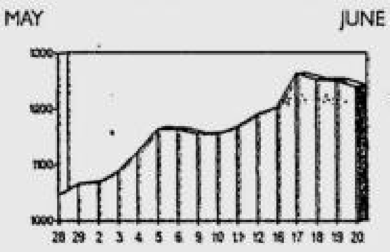
The Philippine main index dropped 11.13 points or 0.89 percent to stand at 1,240.68, but up 21.83 percent so far this year.

Value turnover fell 39 percent to P454.7 million from Thursday's P741.46 million.

"The market is still overbought. Investors are taking advantage of the higher prices to cash in their gains," said BPI Securities stocks analyst Roberto Cano, adding there might be a delayed reaction to the positive deficit news.

Reuters

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

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1st quarter current account surplus down 80% to $338M

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S current account surplus shrunk by almost 80 percent to $338 million in the first quarter from the year-ago level of $1.68 billion, as the increase in payment for imported goods and services outpaced the growth in export earnings, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

The surplus helped temper the impact of the higher investment outflow on the capital and financial account. However, it was not enough to shore up the balance of payments (BOP), which registered a deficit of $502 million in the first quarter or a turnaround from the $2.16-billion surplus a year ago.

"The low first quarter current account surplus was due mainly to the Iraq and SARS crises, which adversely affected the trade of goods and services," BSP managing director for research Diwa Guinigundo said in a press briefing.

The trade-in-goods balance reversed to a deficit of $579 million from a surplus of $761 million in the same period last year as import growth outpaced that of exports. Imports during the period grew by 24.4 percent as against export growth of only 5.1 percent.

"The surge in imports was attributed largely to inventory build-up for raw materials and oil products in anticipation of the possible supply disruption that may arise as a result of the US-Iraq tension," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

"The modest improvement in merchandise exports reflected in part the pick-up in consumer confidence as external demand for electronics, machinery and transport, and garments, the country's major export performers, continued to pick up," he explained.

The trade-in-services account likewise saw a net outflow of $401 million or 63 percent higher than the outflow a year ago.

"The deterioration was due mainly to the combined effects of the decline in travel receipts and the rise in freight payments," Buenaventura said.

There was a marked decline in the net inflow from travel to $162 million from the year-ago level of $257 million, he noted.

"The slowdown in the global economy, the tension in the Middle East, the outbreak of SARS in the Asian region and domestic security concerns contributed to the lower travel receipts," the BSP chief added.

Aside from the current account surplus, the other major component of the BOP is the capital and financial account which incurred a deficit of $312 million in the first quarter as against the $2.03-billion surplus in the same period last year.

This developed as portfolio investments contracted by 75.8 percent to $1.83 billion while direct investments slid by 106.4 percent to $803 million from a year ago.

For the full year, the BSP is expecting a BOP deficit of $1.1 billion due to the shrinking current account surplus.

US financing firm ties up with PNOC

THE STATE-RUN PNOC Energy Development Corp. said yesterday a financing firm based in the United States had offered to fund its planned $120-million geothermal power project in Sorsogon.

PNOC-EDC chair Sergio Apostol said in an interview that the Philippine National Oil Co.'s subsidiary had signed a memorandum of understanding with Global Frontier Group based in Irvine, California, to do a feasibility study and provide possible financing for the Rangas-Tanawon prospect.

"We met with officials of the (prospective financier) in Washington DC during President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit last month," Apostol said.

He said the Rangas-Tanawon steam prospect in Sorsogon had the potential to support a 60-megawatt power plant.

Apostol said developing a geothermal power plant usually costs about $2 million per megawatt—a million for steamfield development and another for the construction of the power plant. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

AFP-LPHI HOUSING PROJECT

The Armed Forces of the Philippines and Laguna Properties Holdings Inc., a subsidiary of Ayala Land Inc., have forged an agreement for LPHI to develop a 1,300-unit affordable housing project at Camp Riego de Dios in Tanza, Cavite, exclusively for military personnel. The agreement was signed by Defense Secretary Angelo T. Reyes (right), LPHI president Manuel J. Colayco Jr. (left) and ALI president Francisco H. Licuanan III. The project is in line with the government's off-base housing program for military personnel.

MPC seen to start posting profit this year

METRO Pacific Corp., the holding company of Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. in the Philippines, is expected to post profits this year and next year.

The company has incurred huge losses in the last five years in view of its debt burden and the slump in the property sector.

In the company's annual stockholders' meeting yesterday, MPC chair and chief executive officer Manuel Pangilinan said the profits would be brought about by the planned reduction in the company's debts and its share in the earnings from shipping firm Negros Navigation Corp. and property developer Landco Pacific Corp.

"It is likely that in the year 2003 Metro Pacific will show profit that will arise mainly from what I call transactional profits—profits resulting from our ability to settle our debts either in the form of cash or in the form of dacion where properties or assets are swapped or used to take out debts," Pangilinan said.

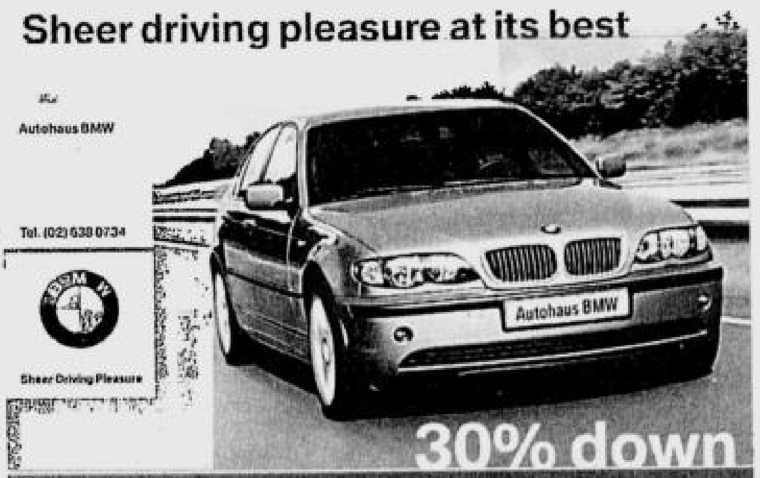
In the meantime, Pangilinan said the company was planning to reduce its interest-bearing debt to practically zero by the end of this year or in the early part of next year.

"If we're able to do that, then the profits of the operating subsidiaries, principally Nenaco and Landco, will flow through because those accounts have been consolidated into Metro Pacific accounts."

"There is, therefore, a good likelihood that this will enable Metro to report a recurring profit in 2004 from the businesses of Landco and Nenaco," he added.

MPC chief finance officer Jose Ma. Lim said that as of the end of last year, MPC has P2.5 billion in outstanding debt. The company has signed an agreement to retire P1.4 billion of its debt by the first half of the year. The remaining P1.1 billion will be up for restructuring.

Sheer driving pleasure at its best



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316i	2002	Titanium Silver	20k	1,375,000.00	1,325,000.00
318i Limousine	2002	Titanium Silver	11k	1,810,000.00	1,780,000.00
318i Limousine	2002	Black Sapphire	5k	1,870,000.00	1,820,000.00
318i Executive	2002	Titanium Silver	15k	1,900,000.00	1,850,000.00
325i	2002	Titanium Silver	13k	2,450,000.00	2,350,000.00
525i	2002	Titanium Silver	15k	2,825,000.00	2,775,000.00
525i	2002	Black Sapphire	10k	3,050,000.00	3,000,000.00

Other BMW Pre-Owned Cars

Model	Year	Color	Mileage	Was	Now
316i	1996	Boston Green	40k	685,000.00	660,000.00
316i	1997	Alpine White	47k	710,000.00	690,000.00
318i Executive	2001	Black Sapphire	20k	1,850,000.00	1,800,000.00
318tds	1996	Titanium Silver	50k	900,000.00	875,000.00
320i	1996	Cosmos Black	85k	850,000.00	835,000.00
325i	2002	Sienna Red	9k	2,350,000.00	2,310,000.00

*On selected cars.

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Belle wins court suit on failed jai-alai venture

From page B1

the planned jai-alai operation.

"The court holds that the defendant is not entitled to what was given by the plaintiff in compliance with its undertaking under the voided contract. Hence, the defendant must return the same," said Judge Romulo Lopez in the order.

Pagcor has asked the Court of Appeals to review the Manila court's decision.

In its seven-page motion for consideration, Pagcor said the case involved more than a billion pesos in government funds "which might be lost as a result of the Manila judge's decision rendered with grave abuse of discretion."

Pagcor lawyers also said that a review of the case would reveal that the decision was made with apparent partiality in favor of Belle Jai Alai Corp. and Filipinas Gaming Entertainment Totalizator Corp.

The Supreme Court on Nov. 29, 2000, declared void the jai-alai deal between Pagcor and Belle after Congress questioned Pagcor's right to give out a franchise for the game.

Pagcor, one of the government's top money spinners, appealed for a reversal of the November order, saying it might lose projected revenues to the tune of billions of pesos.

In June 2001, the Supreme Court reinforced the ban on jai-alai, saying it would be better for the legislature to decide whether to allow operation of the handball game.

Jai-alai, a popular spectator sport much favored for its betting possibilities, successfully ran from June 1999 to November 2000 with gross earnings of P2.8 billion until the court ban.

The ballgame originated from Spain's Basque region and resembles handball, but players use a long curved basket tied to the wrist.

Belle, one of the private partners of Pagcor, suffered financial problems after the aborted jai-alai operations and sold its top property project, Tagaytay Highlands—a high-end mountain resort—to a group led by shopping mall tycoon Henry Sy in April 2002 for P2.5 billion to pare company debts.

For the first quarter of 2003, Belle finally swung to profitability, recording a net income of P163.39 million against a net loss of P259 million in the same period last year. *Reuters, Margaux Ortiz*

BSP scales down ...

From page B1

ered by the BSP to loosen its grip on liquidity is through a one-percentage reduction in its reserve requirement if the downtrend in inflation continues over the next few months.

The BSP currently imposes a 17-percent reserve requirement on banks' deposits and deposit substitute liabilities, common trust funds and other fiduciary liabilities.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 20, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES			
		BANKS			
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.55	4.55	4.5	4.5	8,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19	18.5	18.5	50,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48	48	48	639,100
China Banking Corp.	725	725	725	725	590
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	37.5	36	36	499,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	31.5	31	31	447,300
Philippine National Bank	24.75	24.75	24.75	24.75	7,400
Security Bank Corp.	13	13	12.75	12.75	63,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	70,500
		FINANCIAL SERVICES			
Bankard Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	25,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	1,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	100,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1100	1100	1100	1100	40
		COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL			
		COMMUNICATION			
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.5	20.75	20.25	20.5	16,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.76	0.77	3,650,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	630	630	625	630	12,690
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.025	10,300,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	5,010,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	535	535	525	525	154,780
Ivantage Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.012	0.013	54,900,000
		POWER & ENERGY			
Manila Electric Co. A	10	10	9.7	9.8	822,000
Manila Electric Co. B	15	15	14	14.5	1,278,800
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.02	2.02	3,391,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES			
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.64	1.7	1.62	1.7	1,435,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.9	3.05	2.9	3.05	3,626,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	60,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	12,000
		CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS			
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.48	560,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	250,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO			
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.65	2.85	2.65	2.85	878,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	30.5	29.5	30.5	17,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	758,600
RFM Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	120,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	340,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54	54.5	53.5	54.5	195,700
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	63	63	92,900
Universal Robina Corp.	4.75	4.85	4.75	4.85	50,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	120,000
		HOLDING FIRMS			
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
Ayala Corp.	5	5	4.85	4.9	2,329,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.38	2.4	2.38	2.4	241,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.036	0.036	0.034	0.034	23,900,000
APC Group Inc.	0.075	0.085	0.075	0.0775	12,700,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.8	1.52	1.76	1,537,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.51	0.52	9,410,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	90,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	72,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.5	12.5	11.75	12.5	1,889,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.105	0.09	0.09	760,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	10,000
Ionics Inc.	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.86	440,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.76	1.7	1.7	923,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	40,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	3,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.72	0.75	3,220,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.24	0.25	0.235	0.25	14,460,000
Music Corp.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	200,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.045	0.045	3,500,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	200,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	5,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.045	0.06	0.045	0.06	900,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.075	0.07	0.075	2,700,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	210,000
		MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING			
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	5,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	10,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	70,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	40,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.68	1.8	1.66	1.8	222,000
Pryce Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	10,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	1,200,000
		HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES			
Belle Corp.	0.55	0.61	0.55	0.56	33,700,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	300,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.28	640,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	30,000
		BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS			
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20.5	20.75	20.5	20.75	1,731,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	6,000,000
		OTHERS			
Centro Escolar University	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	31,000
		PROPERTY			
Ayala Land Inc.	6.2	6.2	5.9	6	5,194,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	290,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	260,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.15	710,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	2,850,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.06	1.08	11,306,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.17	0.175	0.14	0.14	6,170,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.2	680,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.15	0.15	280,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	36,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	450,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	9,005,000
		MINING			
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	372,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.185	0.185	0.18	0.18	1,330,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	500,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	2,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	2,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	39,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	20,000
		OIL			
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0026	0.0028	74,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	21,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	12,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.031	0.033	0.031	0.032	6,700,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.28	80,000

DISCLOSURES

LMG Chemicals Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 26.

* * *

CHINA Banking Corp. declared a cash dividend of P5 per share and a 20-percent stock dividend.

* * *

ALSONS Consolidated Resources Inc. is holding its annual stockholders' meeting on July 10, 3 p.m. at the Linden Suites, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of May 19 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ISM Communications Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 31, 3 p.m. at the 17/F Tower 1 of the Enterprise Center, Makati City. Record date is June 23.

* * *

PHILTREAD Holdings Corp. reported that the Securities and Exchange Commission had approved its amended articles of incorporation changing its name to ATR Kim Eng Financial Corp. and increasing its authorized capital stock from P300 million to P1.3 billion.

* * *

CHEMICAL Industries of the Philippines will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept.25. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

INTEREST RATES

June 20, 2003—MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 20-Jun-03	MART1 19-Jun-03
1 Month	6.3896	6.3792
3 Months	6.5146	6.4646
6 Months	7.3788	7.3654
1 Year	7.5692	7.5269
2 Years	8.4461	8.4654
3 Years	9.4635	9.4981
4 Years	10.0404	10.0308
5 Years	10.3692	10.4077
7 Years	11.1885	11.2173
10 Years	11.5577	11.5577
20 Years	12.0192	12.05
25 Years	12.4962	12.4538

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

Makers of 'sin products' not opposing excise tax plan

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

COJUANGCO

TAN

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance yesterday claimed that the country's largest makers of beer, hard liquor, and cigarettes would not block the government's bid to raise excise taxes on these sin products.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said: "I had conversations with the principals of some of the major companies that might be affected and I have not heard any objection or problem with the proposed indexation of the excise taxes on alcohol and tobacco products."

The DOF is hoping to generate between P13 billion and P14 billion with the adoption of a price index in alcohol and cigarette taxes that would lead to higher prices and bigger tax take for the government. Camacho said the price index would allow the government to collect the accumulated inflation in alcohol and tobacco prices that were not yet reflected in the existing fixed rate system.

Camacho cited in particular San Miguel Corp.—the dominant beer brewer and gin maker—whose top management declared that it would not stand in the way of these tax measures if it would lead to the good of the country.

SMC is controlled by Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, founder of the Nationalist People's Coalition which has a formidable power bloc in the House of Representatives where the indexation bill is pending.

The other major "sin products" manufacturer is taipan Lucio Tan's Tanduay and Fortune Tobacco.

Camacho said the indexation of sin taxes was the most crucial in the government's tax reforms not only because of the incremental revenue but also because it would correct the structural defect in the tax system brought by the comprehensive tax reform program of the last decade.

He said the imposition of specific rather than ad valorem on key commodities such as alcohol, tobacco and petroleum has led to an erosion of tax collection because the specific taxes do not reflect inflation. "This is a regressive tax system where tax rates are going down as time goes on," Camacho said. Camacho admitted that this reform was difficult to push especially a year before the coming presidential elections.

Camacho noted that the improvement in revenue collections through better tax administration in the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs by themselves would not be sufficient to arrest the continuing decline in the tax collection efforts.

While the government has been able to contain its budget deficit in the near term, Camacho said the government has to undertake major tax reforms that would bring it closer to its goal of fiscal balance in the medium term.

"We are hoping that Congress will recognize the fiscal challenge we have and support the structural reforms to bring the economy on sound and stable footing," Camacho said.

Korean tourist inflow to Cebu rose 23%

By Abigail L. Ho

DESPITE the steady increase in Korean tourist inflow to Cebu, the Civil Aeronautics Board is standing by its decision to defer the air talks between the Philippines and South Korea that were supposed to take place last Wednesday.

The talks were put off to the fourth quarter of the year to give the two countries enough time to review their proposals in light of the effects of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak on tourism, a government source said.

But the SARS scare did not seem to dampen the Koreans' desire to travel to various destinations, including Cebu.

Data from the Department of Tourism's Region 7 office showed that the number of Korean visitors to Cebu grew by more than 23 percent to 21,894 in January to April from 17,778 during the same period last year.

The SARS scare hit Asia in late March, intensifying the following month as more cases of the fatal disease were reported. This made most people think twice about traveling for fear of contracting the dreaded disease.

Judging from the DOT numbers, however, the SARS outbreak did not really have that much of an effect on Cebu's tourism, as far as the Koreans were concerned.

Korean tourists in Cebu now account for more than 24 percent of the country's total tourist market, up by two percentage points from last year's 22 percent.

In 2001, Korean tourists only accounted for 11 percent of the country's total tourist arrivals.

Over the past three years, the number of Korean tourists in Cebu had also been showing a steady increase, starting with 14,965 in 2000 to 31,599 in 2001 to 63,848 in 2002.

This meant that the number of Korean visitors to Cebu more than doubled each year starting in 2000.

As a response to the steady inflow of Korean tourists to Cebu, Gokongwei-owned Cebu Pacific Air last week added two Cebu-Seoul flights to its flight schedules.

The flag carrier flies to Seoul in South Korea twice a week from Manila and four times a week from Cebu.

Cebu Pacific president Lance Gokongwei said in an earlier interview that the Manila-Seoul route was hardly hit by the SARS scare as load factors remained quite stable.

"It was temporarily affected by the SARS (scare) but we're still doing well. We'll see how we do in July because that's Korea's peak season (for travel)," he said.

Roadmap to fiscal deliverance

By Jose Isidro N. Camacho
Secretary of Finance

(Conclusion)

PERSPECTIVE

GIVEN the factors leading to our current fiscal position, it is clear that the roadmap ahead will have to be a comprehensive package of policy directions, legislation, administrative measures, commitment to good governance and the return of a favorable business cycle.

As shown by our improving fiscal performance, administrative measures to enhance the tax collection efficiency and effectiveness of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Bureau of Customs and other government agencies are critical.

Mainly through administrative measures, we have been able to improve our revenues for January-April which grew by 12 percent from year-ago level and have exceeded our target by P10.3 billion or 5.4 percent.

The BIR's tax collection has increased by almost 9 percent compared from last year's level although they are still slightly short of the target for the period.

The BOC, for its part, has consistently exceeded its monthly targets and by April, it has exceeded its 2002 collection by 22.2 percent and its target by 16 percent.

The strong collection by both bureaus has allowed us to register a lower fiscal deficit of P65.5 billion, or 21 percent down from last year's P82.9 billion.

The May fiscal performance is not yet out but preliminary reports from the BIR and BOC, and the expected expenditures give us reason to be optimistic that the trend of the first four months is continuing. This bolsters our confidence of achieving our fiscal targets this year and reducing our deficit to 4.7 percent of the gross domestic product or GDP.

While the year-to-date results are gratifying, it is clear that much still has to be done to reverse the fiscal trends on sustainable basis in the medium term. Tax collection efficiencies in the BIR and BOC will arrest the decline but policy changes and structural reforms will be needed to bring us back to fiscal balance.

What else must be done

1. We must moderate our trade liberalization policy without turning back on our international commitments. We must ensure that our trade liberalization initiatives truly benefit national interest and that domestic industries are provided the necessary support to be competitive.

2. We must be more prudent in giving fiscal incentives ensuring that they are fiscally neutral most of the time. We must pursue the ongoing review of fiscal incentives to rationalize them.

3. We must correct the existing deficiencies of our tax system. We must pass legislation to index the excise taxes on tobacco, alcohol and petroleum products. We must pass the bill to rationalize the excise tax on automobiles based on value. We must resist attempts to defer again the VAT on professional services which we are now collecting after eight years of deferral. We must support the bill to rationalize the documentary stamp tax or DST on financial transactions which will support the development of the domestic capital markets and, at the same time, plug the loophole on tax on special deposits.

4. We must continue our review of all BIR tax rulings that have granted tax exemptions in the past to ensure that they are still applicable and justified. Our current efforts are already bearing fruits.

5. We must consider introducing new taxes especially on the more buoyant sectors of our economy.

6. We must continue the enhancements in the operational capabilities of the BIR and the BOC especially through the use of information technology. Electronic registration, filing, payment and payment confirmation should be the norm for all taxpayers.

7. We must encourage Congress to adopt the proposed Fiscal Responsibility Act which will ensure that all future legislation creating additional expenditures or tax incentives are accompanied by revenue measures to make them fiscally neutral.

8. We must take a second look at the Local Government Code and push for more substantial devolution of national government functions. LGUs should be encouraged to exercise fiscal discipline and generate their own financial resources aside from the IRA. Wasteful local expenditures such as luxury vehicles for LGU executives must be stopped.

9. We must implement effectively the recently passed Government Procurement Reform Act. This will reduce corruption, leakage and wastage in government purchases, and allow us to do more with less.

10. We must motivate other revenue-generating government agencies (aside from the BIR and BOC) to maximize their revenue efforts by allowing them to retain a portion of their incremental revenues for their own budgetary requirements. This will bring fiscal discipline to the level of individual agencies.

11. We must stay committed to streamlining the government bureaucracy so that we make it more efficient with less but better paid public servants.

12. We must stay committed to the austerity measures instituted by President Macapagal-Arroyo as well as the more frequent monitoring of our revenues and expenditures.

13. We must continue to impose good governance as the norm for both the public and private sectors. At the BIR, we must push for the passage of the National Revenue Authority (NRA) Bill. This will allow us to transform the BIR into a more fiscally independent authority with better paid, better equipped and more motivated personnel. We must continue our present mode of being more performance-based on our key personnel appointments. We must pursue to its natural conclusion the lifestyle checks that we are doing on BIR and BOC officials. We must be relentless in the BOC on our anti-smuggling campaign including the cleansing of customs bonded warehouses.

14. Finally, fiscal discipline must continue to be the central focus of our economic program together with market reforms and good governance. We have to make sure that everybody is keenly aware of the necessity and urgency of achieving a healthy fiscal program to sustain a stable macroeconomic environment, improve investor confidence, avoid a debt crisis and eventually have sufficient government resources to provide every Filipino with his basic needs.

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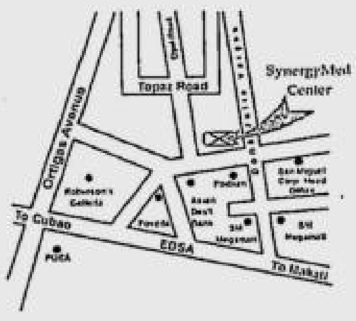

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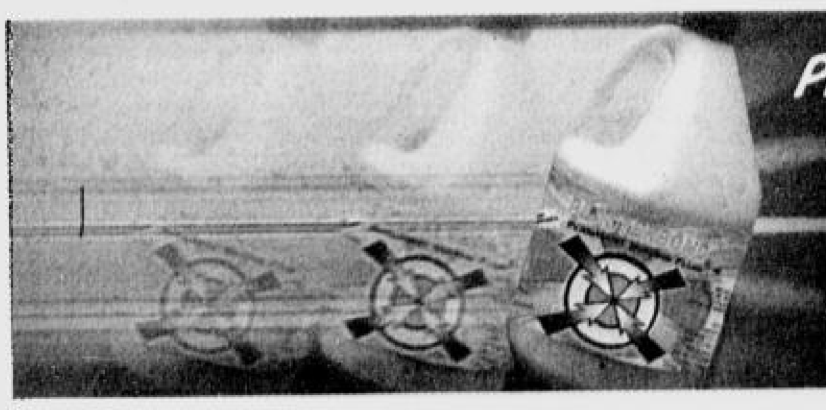

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CMPTER SALE/RPAIR-NBOOK CPU/PTR/MTR-TFAX 8515186

HEALTH/FITNESS

Lose Wt Fast 09177951125

MASSAGE

3233269 SCORPION

Akhin Thai Mla 8347357 Cbu 2532597 Bguio 448-7184

College Guyz 02-8817681

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Guides • 0917-8263154 -Pam

H'SOME ATHLETES 8337361

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HUNKS TOUCH 0920-5182552

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MALE 16 PALANAN 7320659

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Edward 7289285 09195367404

FEELS GOOD 4127758

H-H-MS MALE 7314018

JOJO HHMS M/F 0920-8635511

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MAIDS 2000 4266788

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LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

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NR ROCKWELL
Owner 895-9336

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CAMARIN Cal City LA240m² FA104m² 2Bdrms 1T&B P1.2M Vic/Gie 8903461 loc. 27

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MANILA

Income Property Nr UST 250m² Call 0917-5218338

NR LA SALLE
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.295M 8903461 loc 34

Nr school Kundiman Samp LA150m² FA250m² 2sty 6BR 4TB P5M 09167003539 / 9522109

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Gnhls new4br 2.2M 9487112

PARANAQUE

2Sty Mansion LA-720sm FA-505 Nice 0919-3437382 • 822-3308

BF EXEC VILL 3M 2855129

Bicutan 2br 2tb 09178928471

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1	2	6	5,000.00
2	2	7	5,000.00
3	4	10	10,000.00
4	6	30	267.80
5	16	2	2,455.40
6	16	3	2,455.40
7	17	4	3,319.70
8	18	8	419.48
9	18	9	419.48
10	18	10	419.48
11	19	10	373.37
12	19	13	373.37
13	19	14	373.37

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(PDI—June 21, 22 & 23, 2003).

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LAGUNA

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ADELINA 1 3Bdrms LA183m² P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

Binan 3T/mo 9300299

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LOT

MANILA

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LOT

KALOOCAN

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LOT

MANILA

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LOT

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QUEZON CITY

1Ha RUSH 09194628295 BF QC 224sqm 9316390

Gud 4 shop & hse Comwelth 12T/m² neg 106m² 9522109

NEW MLA 200m² 4121825

St Ignatius 600m² 41201825

VILLA ESPANA LA108.50m² P12,000/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

RIZAL

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OTHER AREAS

KINGSVILLE SUBD LA 397M² P4,250/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

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LOT

LAGUNA

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HOUSE

ALABANG

AYALA ALABANG 2STY POOL ALABANG HILLS 2STY POOL T8712461 0917-7310820

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Proj4 3BR 2TB w/ garage Call Malou 4335777

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PASAY

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2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
U.N. Avenue, Paco, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites Contractors / Applicators who Specialized in Waterproofing using Polyurethane Spray Foam Technology to apply for eligibility and, if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET
Repair of MFC Warehouse #3	NFA-ACA Compound, Valenzuela City	P4,095,688.20

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Issuance of Eligibility Forms and Checklists	June 16-23, 2003
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Filled-up Forms and Requirements	June 25, 2003
Issuance of Bid Documents	July 1-4, 2003
Pre-bidding Conference	July 22, 2003
Submission and Opening of Bids	August 13, 2003

Interested contractors shall submit their Eligibility Statements including Price Proposals in the prescribed forms to the Chairman, Regional Bid and Award Committee (RBAC), National Food Authority, U.N. Avenue, Paco, Manila.

Eligibility forms may be secured at the NFA-RBAC Secretariat upon presentation of Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable application fee of Php 500.00.

Bid documents and plans shall be issued only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 2,500.00.

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

(Sgd.) ATTY. BASILIDES TACO
Asst. Regional Director & RBAC Chairman

(PDI – June 14 & 21, 2003)

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Direct Hiring Mktg Staff 18-45yo 9950042 Anna Sinoy

FREE CAREGIVER TRAINING 5280730 589-9958

JOB HIRING 736-6660 AU

MANICURISTA needed ASAP call Elli 6830106

Master Planner/Civil Engr (M) 3-5yrs exp not more than 35yo Payroll/Acctng Clerk (F) single w/exp willing to be assign in provnce 7234623-25

Mktg Staff 09192535623 Glenda

OFC MKTNG STAFF Coll grad or level 18-45yrs. old Call Ms. Rulfa 9134470

OFC Staff 0920-8062187

Supervisor/Product Advisor w/wo exp. Pepe Paul 09162729617 / 7436414

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WANTED: ACCOUNTING STAFF PLS. CALL 852-6195 Look for Perla

Wanted Med. Tech. with Licence, Experience not needed • Call 983-4047

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MUNOZ BRIONES PAWNSHOP
AUCTION SALE
•JULY 07, 2003•
All unredeemed articles from February 1-28, 2003
•354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM.
•Pinatubo St. Mand City 10AM
•Libertad St corner Sierra Madre Mand. 11AM.
•109 Dela Rosa St Mktl 1PM
•108 Legaspi St Mktl 2PM.
V ZAMORA Lic. Auctioneer

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the deceased LEONARDO A. BALIDO has been extrajudicially settled by and among his legitimate heirs in an extrajudicial settlement of estate of the deceased brother dated April 15, 2003 per Doc No. 362, Page No. 73, Book No. XLVI, Series of 2003 of the notarial register of Atty. El Cid C. Fajardo, notary public in and for Pasig City. (PDI-June 21, 28, July 5, 2003)

Notice is hereby given that affidavit of adjudication of estate of the late Rowena R. Morera has been executed by the sole heir Rowelito R. Morera as per Doc. No. 69, Page No. 14, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Alberto A. Aguja, Jr. of Laguna (PDI-June 7, 14 & 21, 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given on the loss of official receipt of **MONEYLINE LENDING INVESTORS, INC.** with series# 3957-4000. If found pls. call 8967502
(PDI-June 21, 2003)

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Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES
ORG Compound, Cotabato City
Tel. No. (064) 421-1248/412-1234
(Authorized by Bureau of Fisheries-Central Office,
860 Arcadia Bldg., Quezon Avenue, Quezon City)

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION TO BID

Procurement/Purchase of Fishing Nets and Accessories Intended for Gill Nets and Engine with the following specifications:

I. Gill Nets

A. Bottom Set Gill Net (converted to Surface Gill Net)
- 700 rolls PA mononet (fortune); 0.25 x 50 MD x 7k x 1,000m/roll
- 801,000 pcs. Radial Floats R-1L
- 400 boxes, Sinkers # xx
- 1,500 kgs. float line; # 120 monoline
- 250 kgs. sinker line; # 40 monoline
- 2,200 pcs. Netting needle

B. Tuna Drift Gill Net
- 100 rolls PA mononet; 0.40 x 4k x 50 MD x 1,000 m/roll
- 500 coils PE Rope # 12 ENT
- 500 coils PE Rope # 6 ENT
- 70,000 pcs. Rubber float (R-16)
- 2,000 kgs. Sinker (#2)
- 2,000 pcs. Netting needle
- 400 Spools monoline # 4

II. 58-units B&S Engine; 16 H.P. with complete accessories

The following pertinent documents are necessary for the pre-qualification as a whole sale dealer for the above mentioned item:

1. Business Permit
2. List of Available Fishing Materials, Engine and Accessories
3. Company Profile
4. Registration
5. Security Bond

The office reserves the right to refuse or waive any offer or quotation which do not conform to the specifications mentioned above.

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

(PDI – June 19, 20 & 21, 2003)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting *Offers to Purchase* by way of sealed bids a **5,105.0 square meter commercial property** located along Lapu-lapu Avenue and corners Ayungin and Babanse Streets, Dagat-dagatan Development Project on an *"As Is - Where Is"* basis. Title of the property is registered under the name of the *National Housing Authority*. Base price is PhP12,000.00 per square meter.

Payment schemes for the above cited property are *cash, modified cash* (6 equal installments without interest) and *installment* for a maximum period of *ten (10) years* with graduated interest rates.

Bidding Materials can be secured for a non-refundable fee of *PhP200.00* from the ***Commercial/Industrial Bids & Awards Committee (COINBAC) c/o the Commercial & Industrial Estates Department (CIED)***. Mezzanine Floor, NHA Main Building, Elliptical Road, Quezon City. For inquiry, please call ***Ms. Evelyn V. Ramos or Ms. Neri A. Subido*** at the following Tel. Nos. *CIED: (02) 923-0390, (02) 928-4561 local 302 & 303*.

SCHEDULE

A.	Submission of Pre-Qualifications Requirements	June 23 to July 2, 2003, office hours CIED, Mezzanine Floor, NHA Main Bldg. Elliptical Road, Quezon City
B.	Pre-Bid Conference	June 30, 2003, 10:00 a.m. Operations Center, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Bldg.
C.	Submission of Sealed Bids	July 4, 2003, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon Operations Center, 3rd Floor
D.	Opening of Sealed Bids	July 4, 2003, 1:30 p.m. Operations Center, 3rd Floor

The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all offers or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Assistant General Manager/Chairman, COINBAC

(PDI - June 21 & 25, 2003)

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FORKLIFT - (4) YALE Electric Forklifts
POWER TOOLS - Rotary Impact Drills, Cordless Drills; Angle Grinders; Cordless Grass Strimmers, High Pressure Washers, etc
MOTORS /PUMPS - A Large Qty of Electric Motors to 20HP (Unused); A Large Qty of Pumps (Unused)
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AT: HENRY BUTCHER AUCTION CENTER
C/O HILON COMPOUND - BO. MAYAPA, CANLUBANG, LAGUNA
AUCTION DATE: TUESDAY 24TH JUNE 2003 10:30AM SHARP
VIEWING DATE: MONDAY 23RD JUNE 2003
9:00AM - 6:00PM AND MORNING OF SALE DAY
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RFM Corporation, one of the country's largest and dynamic food and beverage conglomerates, is inviting equally progressive SUB-DISTRIBUTORS to complement its current set of distributors nationwide.

The SUB-DISTRIBUTORS shall be part of RFM's extensive sales and distribution network that carries fast-growing and actively marketed brands like Swift (Processed/Canned Meat Products), Selecta Moo chocolate and milk drinks, Sunkist RTD and powdered juice drinks, Aqua mineral water, White King cake and flour-based mixes, Fiesta pasta, Butterfresh margarine, Saucy Mi instant noodles & Nooda Crunch noodle snacks.

Minimum requirements:
- With existing sales distribution operation for fast-moving consumer goods for at least one year;
- Existing principals or products carried do not directly compete with RFM's products;
- Good credit standing with all principals; and,
- Willing to work closely with our exclusive distributors.

This is an urgent requirement. Respondents are requested to mail their letter of intent, company profile, and curriculum vitae of owners to the address below or e-mail to *ecmacasaet@swiftfoods.com.ph*. We shall respond to qualified candidates ONLY.

Office of the AVP for Sales
Branded Food Group
RFM Corporation
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dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI BAC) is inviting interested Branch Office (s) / Subsidiary (ies) in the Philippines, of Direct Manufacturers of branded computers, duly organized under Philippine laws, to qualify and bid for the supply, delivery and installation of computer package consisting of the following:

Package	Procurement Items
School Package	10 PCs, 2 printers and 1 external modem for a minimum of 1,000 public high schools located nationwide
LGU Package	1 Server, 4 PCs and 1 printer for a minimum of 250 LGUs located nationwide
DTI Package	4 PCs and 1 printer for a minimum of 106 DTI Offices located nationwide

The project is funded by the Government of Japan under the Non-Project Grant Assistance. The approved Agency Budget is Five Hundred Fifty-Nine Million Seven Hundred Seventy Thousand Pesos (P559,770,000.00)

Bid documents may be obtained from the Office of Special Concerns c/o Maribeth Fulton / Dexter B. Gianan, from **June 30** to **July 7, 2003** after paying the non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) at the Office of Special Concerns (OSC), 5/F DTI Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, during regular office hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM).

A pre-bid conference will be held on July 9, 2003, 10:00 AM at the Conference Room, 6/F DTI Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

The submission and opening of the Eligibility Requirements, Technical and Financial proposals will be on July 24, 2003, 9:00 a.m. at the Conference Room, 6/F DTI Bldg., 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

The contract duration is for three (3) years and delivery period is one hundred twenty (120) days.

The DTI BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of its bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be most advantageous to the Government.

For inquiries, please contact Dir. Dita M. Maralit / Lydia R. Guevarra through tel. nos. 890-5123 and 897-1718, Fax no. 890-4816 and E-mail address DitaMaralit@dti.dti.gov.ph.

By Authority of the Secretary of Trade and Industry.

(Sgd.) ARMIN B. RAQUEL-SANTOS
Assistant Secretary
Chair, DTI BAC

(PDI – June 21 & 29, 2003)

Philippine Air Force
Headquarters Air Logistics and Support Command
Clark Air Base, Philippine Air Force
Angeles City, Pampanga

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the establishment of Supply Support Agreement (SSA) for C-130 aircraft airframe spares, consumables and components and Supply Support Agreement for C-130 aircraft engine spares.

Prospective bidders must be duly licensed by the appropriate government agency. Eligibility requirements/forms will be made available to contractors upon submission of the below listed required documents to the Senior Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC) Secretariat, Air Logistics and Support Command (ALSC), Clark Air Base, Pampanga:

1. Letter of Intent to participate in the bidding
2. Certificate of Registration from SEC/DTI/CDA

The approved budget for each SSA is FIVE MILLION PESOS (5M php).

The Pre-bid conference and Opening of Bids will be held on **10 July 2003** and **25 July 2003**, respectively at the PAF Procurement Center conference room, CJVAB, Pasay City.

The two (2) envelopes system as required by RA 9184, series of 2003 shall apply in the bidding. Bids must be submitted on/or before 10:00 a.m., **25 July 2003**.

For particulars, you may contact the SBAC Secretariat, DM office, 2nd Floor, Air Logistics and Support Command (ALSC), Clark Air Base, Pampanga or at Tel. No. 045-599-2014/2015 local 6689/ 09192353229.

The Philippine Air Force reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and to accept and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the government. The Philippine Air Force neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) COL LORETO G SUAREZ PAF (GSC)
Chairman, Senior Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--June 14 & 21, 2003)

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of grief and pain,
You came to comfort us,
With your words of sympathy,
Your messages of hope,
Your contributions of flowers,
Your support of food,
Your promise of prayer and masses
And, above all,
Your silent but reassuring company,

To all our friends and those of our departed
Mama, Oma and Groß-Oma

Erna Baer de Venecia

Who peacefully passed away in her sleep last June 5, 2003.

We send our deepest gratitude and appreciation.
It is our hope and our fervent prayer that the warmth
of your fellowship and remembrance shall revisit
you by God's Grace and everlasting love.

DRA. FELICIDAD AGUIRRE CASANOVA

1918 - 2003

Passed away in the grace of our Lord on
June 20, 2003 at the age of 84.

Her bereaved husband **Dr. Francisco R. Casanova**; children **Dr. Francisco A. Casanova Jr.** and family, **Dr. Manuel A. Casanova** and family, **Engr. Virgilio A. Casanova** and family, **Judge Caesar A. Casanova** and family, **Dr. Zenaida C. Fulgencio** and family, **Renato A. Casanova (BSC)** and family, **Concepcion C. Tumanut (RN)** and family, **Dr. Efren A. Casanova** and family, **Engr. Robert A. Casanova** and family, and **Susan A. Casanova (RN)**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family's ancestral house at Poblacion, Pulilan, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 28, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at Pulilan Catholic Cemetery.

Villamor L. Dizon

Former Provincial Prosecutor of Pampanga
and Editor of "Ing Mayap a Balita"
Peacefully joined his Creator on June 19, 2003 at the age of 74
in Angeles City.
Born on August 6, 1928 in Sta. Ana, Pampanga.

His loving wife **Henedina "Titing" Rivera**; his children **Erwin, Rowena, Tanya** and **Cholo, Walter** and **Mye, Joseph** and **Pinky, William** (†); grandchildren **Marti, Angela** (†), **Ino, Eann** and **Luiz**; sisters and brothers; in-laws; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the House of Many Mansions Chapel 3, Mac Arthur Highway, Pulungbulu, Angeles City.

Interment will be on June 22, 2003 after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at the Holy Spirit Parish Church, Marisol Village, Angeles City.

THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

condoles with ***Yrna Avelina L. Dulce-Ileto,***
children by his first wife ***Olga: Reynaldo,***
Wilfredo, Christine, Jeffrey, Michelle,
Marissa *and* ***Maria Teresa*** *and*
stepdaughter: ***Michelle Diane Dulce****, of*

GENERAL RAFAEL ILETO

Former Secretary of National Defense
(1986 - 1988)
and
former Vice Chief of Staff of the
Armed Forces of the Philippines (1972)

Who joined his Creator
on 19 June 2003 at the age of 82.

General Ileto is the 17th Secretary
of National Defense.
He will be remembered for his contribution
to the Armed Forces of the Philippines,
specifically to the Philippine Army
who have great respect for the
"Father of the Scout Rangers",
whom he founded.

His remains lie in state at the
Veterans Center in
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo,
Quezon City.

Interment will be on
June 22, 2003, 9:00 a.m.
at the Libingan ng mga Bayani,
Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

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"None of us lives for himself nor dies for himself. If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die we die for the Lord. Either in life or in death, we belong to the Lord"
Romans 14

ANTONIO "Bats" B. RAMOS

Died in the Grace of our Lord
at the age of 67.

His bereaved wife **Irene**, children **Ma. Isabel & Jose Deogracias** & brothers & sisters **Deogracias & Milagros, Jose & Josefina, Carmen & Gervasio, Ma. Paz, Ditas & Celestino & Lorna**; nephews & nieces **Rafael & Victoria, Rowena & Bill, Carmen, Deogracias III & Marie Antonette; Robert, Lorena & Loricelle**; mother-in-law **Margarita Endonela**; sisters-in-law & brothers-in-law; relatives & friends request the pious readers to remember *Bats* in their prayers.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in
Gubat, Sorsogon. Interment will be on Tuesday
at the Gubat Catholic Cemetery
after the 2 p.m. Mass.

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103 years

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

COMMISSIONER NATALIO M. BELTRAN, JR.

(March 9, 1937 – June 18, 2003)

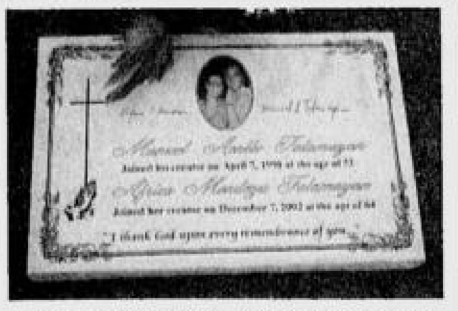
Commissioner, National Amnesty Commission (NAC), 2003
Former Congressman of Romblon, 1987 – 1992
Former Undersecretary of Public Works and Highways, 1986 – 1987
Former Assemblyman of Romblon, 1984 – 1986
Past District Governor of Lions International District 301-A, 1979 – 1980
JCI Senator, Jaycees International

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 18, 2003. His bereaved wife **ELSA**; children **NATALIE**, **COUNCILOR JOJO** and **SUSAN**, **COUNCILOR LISSA**, **NIÑA**, grandchildren **JHUN IV** and **JOSHUA**; brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Manila North Cemetery on Tuesday, June 24, 2003 after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

Please omit flowers.



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> **"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."**
>
> Psalm 21:15

In Loving Memory

Eugenia Suarez Atienza

December 3, 1910 - June 22, 1995

Wife of General Rigoberto J. Atienza (†)

Her children Zenaida and David Clymer, Eloisa and Victor Lim, Herminia Atienza-Ilano, Rosalinda and Balbino Hernando, Rolando Atienza, and Josefina Atienza-Salvaña, grandchildren and great-grandchildren invite relatives and friends and readers to remember her in their prayers and to join in the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Sunday, June 22, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Chapel, Camp General Rigoberto J. Atienza, Libis, Quezon City.

O Sacred Heart, o Love Divine, Make our love so like to Thine.

> *"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."*
>
> 2 Corinthians 5:4-5

DRA. CLEOTILDE F. ABELEDA

Peacefully joined our LORD on June 16, 2003 at the age of 70.

Her bereaved husband **Dr. Augusto "Ogie" Abeleda Sr.**; children and in-laws **Analette** and **Arthur**, **Anthony**, **Jong** and **Rochelle**, **Arleen** and **Aba**; grandchildren **Alexis**, **Ara**, **Gelli**, **Randee**, **Trixie** and **Apple**.

Her remains lie in state at the Multi-purpose Hall, Kapitan Pepe Subdivision, Cabanatuan City.

Relatives and friends request the pious readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on June 22, 2003, 1:00 p.m. at the Sagrada Familia Memorial Park, Cabanatuan City.

> "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him."
>
> I Corinthians 2:9

CLASSIFIEDS

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NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

	NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1)	Miller F. Abdula	Unknown	Josephine F. Abdula SS # 03-2665132-4	January 8, 2003
2)	Lucia Gerapusco Aparece	Unknown	Flaviano E. Aparece SS # 09-0271647-6	May 21, 1997
3)	Narcisa C. Ardison & Almamae	Unknown	Pedrito Ardison SS # 03-4788223-7	January 14, 2003
4)	Luz C. Balanday	Malabon City	Alfredo Balanday SS # 03-2084031-9	August 14, 2001
5)	Ramon Baltazar	Unknown	Ernesto C. Baltazar SS # 03-3943045-1	June 3, 2002
6)	Lolita Abarquez	87 P. Burgos St., Panginla Subd. Concepcion, Marikina City	Alberto T. Castillo, Jr. SS # 33-4492980-2	July 5, 1998
7)	Violy M. Castillo	Marucdoc, Morong, Bataan	Armando C. Castillo SS # 03-8683119-5	August 31, 2000
8)	Lilia D. Costales	Unknown	Bienvenido M. Costales SS # 03-1688092-7	December 20, 2002
9)	Cirila David	Purok 2 Zone 8 Cupang, Antipolo City	Fausto Ronquillo David SS # 03-0784417-6	October 30, 2002
10)	Creseme De Guzman	Unknown	Rodrigo De Guzman SS # 03-2432109-6	August 8, 2002
11)	Carmelita R. Dela Cruz	Makilala, North Cotabato	Carlos R. Dela Cruz SS # 09-0463119-3	November 9, 2002
12)	Ivee Elises Flores	Brgy. Lalo, Tayabas, Quezon	Florita Elises Flores SS # 04-0601800-7	December 8, 2002
13)	Restituta I. Jabel	Mindanao	Gabriel Jabel SS # 06-0566690-4	July 11, 2002
14)	Rosalinda Serquina Jamias	Unknown	Cesar A. Jamias SS # 03-1824392-8 03-2031968-8	September 6, 2002
15)	Nena C. Lopez	Recodo, Zamboanga City	Raul L. Lopez SS # 10-0074271-0	May 4, 2003
16)	Nicasio Malana Maria Luisa Malana Ferdinand Malana	Unknown	Moises M. Malana SS # 03-1458516-9	April 9, 2001
17)	Editha C. Cruz	6737 Tramo St., Dionisio, Parañaque	Joseph C. Mallorca SS # 03-9732419-8	January 30, 2003
18)	Visitacion Pacion	Kalinga, Apayao	Mario C. Pacion SS # 01-0400029-4	December 26, 2000
19)	Erlinda Pedrido	198 M.H. Del Pilar, Palatiw, Pasig City	Leonardo T. Pedrido SS # 03-3128536-1	March 31, 2003
20)	Angel, Rowell, Angelo & Angelito Principe Jr.	Unknown	Angelito C. Principe SS # 03-3084261-1	October 16, 2002
21)	Jessie Remigio	Unknown	Vicente Remigio SS # 03-6682713-4	July 31, 2002
22)	Narciso Villamor	Cebu	Raul E. Reyes SS # 03-3390175-3	May 15, 2001
23)	Florita Ellar-Lisondra	Panabo, Davao City	Mamerto N. Roderos SS # 09-0048680-5	February 14, 2003
24)	Ma. Dinia F. Rodriguez	Unknown	Francisco C. Rodriguez, Jr. SS # 03-1503875-4	September 14, 2001
25)	Miguelita, Balbino, Elmero and Elena Rostata	109 Fernando St., Pasay City	Miguel Rostata SS # 03-3005277-3	April 5, 2001
26)	Juliana and Concepcion Madalton	Unknown	Conchita Tapel SS # 07-1263727-9	November 17, 1995
27)	Jocelyn Daufeit	767-B Santiago St., Gatchalian II Subd., Las Piñas City	Jose C. Tibe SS # 03-1025551-6	June 14, 2002
28)	Alicia Nelmida	Unknown	Nelson P. Vega SS # 03-3584574-9	January 5, 2003
29)	Nemesia Payusan	Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte	Artemio L. Vicoy SS # 08-0312087-3	April 13, 2003
30)	Diego A. Tolentino	Unknown	Lucina F. Villals SS # 33-2634573-4	February 22, 2003

(PDI - June 21, 2003)

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OFFICE OF THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

June 4, 2003

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP), through the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), has received an ODA Loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in the amount of NINE HUNDRED FIFTY ONE MILLION JAPANESE YEN (¥951 million) toward the cost of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Phase V (RWSSP V), Loan Agreement No. PH-201, dated **December 28, 1999**, and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the loan to payments under the contract for which this Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued. Disbursement of the ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans". No party, other than the GOP, shall derive any right from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As to the remaining portion, the GOP and the concerned Provincial Local Government Unit (LGU) will take appropriate measures for finance.
2. JBIC requires the bidders and contractors, as well as the GOP and the Provincial LGU, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC:
   (a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt and fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
   (b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans if at any times determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
3. The DILG, on behalf of the Provincial LGU of the Province of Ilocos Sur, announces the intention of the Provincial LGU, hereinafter referred to as the "Employer", to invite all interested Contractors, including voluntarily formed joint ventures, from all countries and areas to submit Expression of Interest for Eligibility Processing. Local Contractors shall be holders of the Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PBC) License and Certificate of Registration and Classification of Contractors as Medium B for Water Supply. Foreign Contractors must be licensed and certified by their Embassy/Consulate in the country as a bonafide Contractor. If found Eligible, the Contractor must bid for the following:

   ILOCOS SUR

   Drilling/Construction of water supply projects, consisting of 33 units deep well, 6 units shallow well, and iron removal facilities as applicable, and 11 units of school toilet and 1 unit of public toilet; all as one contract package.

   Contract duration is 300 calendar days.
4. Further information and the form for Expression of Interest for Eligibility Processing can be acquired, for free, from the Office of the Provincial Governor, Province of Ilocos Sur, Attention: the Chairman of BAC, Provincial Capitol, Vigan City, upon presentation of a written request from **June 11, 2003** to **June 21, 2003**.
5. The deadline for submission for Expression of Interest for Eligibility Processing shall not be later than 5:00 PM, **June 30, 2003**, the same to be submitted either by hands, registered mail or by courier, in sealed envelope duly labeled "Expression of Interest for Eligibility Processing, RWSSP V", to the Provincial Governor, Province of Ilocos Sur, Attention: The Chairman, BAC, Provincial Capitol, Vigan City.
6. It is expected that the Provincial LGU, the Employer, will issue only to Eligible Applicants the Certificate of Eligibility on or about **July 15, 2003** wherein the schedule of issuance of Bid Documents, and submission and opening of bids will be announced. Bid Documents will only be issued to Eligible Applicant upon presentation of the original copy of the Certificate of Eligibility and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P 2,500.00.
7. An Applicant, and if found Eligible, a bidder (including all members of a joint venture) shall not be one of the following:
   (a) A firm or an organization which has been engaged by the DILG/Employer to provide consulting/NGO services for the preparation related to procurement for or implementation of this project;
   (b) Any association/affiliation (inclusive of parent firm) of a firm or an organization mentioned in subparagraph (a) above; or
   (c) A firm organization who lend, or temporarily second their personnel to firms or organizations which are engaged in consulting/NGO services for the preparation related to procurement for or implementation of the project, if the personnel would be evolved in any capacity on the same project.
8. The Eligibility of the Applicants will be evaluated based on the submission of Legal documents, Technical requirements and Financial documents using non-discretionary criteria of **"PASS"** or **"FAIL"**
9. A minimum requirement for qualification is to have successfully carried out similar projects at least for within the past (5) years
10. The Employer shall under no circumstances be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so mailed or sent through courier.
11. The Employer reserves the right to:
   (a) amend the scope and value of any contract to be bid, in which event the contract will only be bid among those bidders who meet the requirements of the contract as amended;
   (b) reject or accept any application;
   (c) cancel the Eligibility Processing and reject all Expression of Interest; and
   (d) waive any formality in the Eligibility Processing to ensure that the objectives of the Eligibility Processing are met.

The Employer shall neither be liable for any such actions nor be under any obligation to inform the Applicant of the grounds for them.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. AGRIPINO G. MORGA**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 21, 2003)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
NPC-PSD 2003-003

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-PSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 14, 2003; 9:00 AM			
A1*	VARIOUS OFFICE SUPPLIES 1) BINDER, SPIRAL, ETC. 2) TONER, INK CARTRIDGE ETC. 3) PAPER BOND	OSSD03-0013 (EA) OSSD03-0014 (EA) OSSD03-0015 (EA)	P1,571,854.00 1,440,565.00 1,560,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 25, 2003; 10:00 AM			
B1	FUEL (PREMIUM GASOLINE & DIESEL	MCF/PSS03-0053 (EA)	P 1,548,000.00
B2	JOB ORDER – TO SUPPLY LABOR AND MATERIALS IN THE TOTAL REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS FOR CONTROL ROOM AND OTHER OFFICES W/ THREE (3) PACKAGE TYPE WATER-COOLED A/C SYSTEM	MAG2002-0216 (JS)	P 1,078,000.00
B3	JOB ORDER – TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT, LABOR & MATERIALS FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF BINGA HE PLANT'S STATION BATTERY BANK	AMB2002-0008 (LS)	P 1,408,000.00
B4	SPARE PARTS FOR 12 PCS 2.5 V400 SEMT PIELSTICK DIESEL ENGINE	SBDPP03-00175 (JS)	P 4,590,483.50
B5	JOB ORDER – SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR THE INSTALLATION TEST COMMISSIONING OF ACID REGENERATION SYSTEM FOR CAT-ION UNIT	MCF/MS03-0081 (JP)	P 8,000,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 28, 2003; 2:00 P.M.			
C1	SPARE PARTS FOR EBARA HOTWELL PUMP, MODEL 1500 X 900 VYDBM, MFG NO RA 10153-01	PGPP1-03-0081 (LS)	P 19,826,600.00
C2	POWER SUPPLY UNIT	PG2-03-0020 (LS)	P 936,000.00
C3	AIR CIRCUIT BREAKER	2BCF02-0200 (AC)	P 3,000,000.00
C4	SPARE PARTS FOR CLYDE SOOTBLOWER MAIN ASSY (TYPE MK/ IX / FH / X / E)	2BCF02-0362 (ZC)	P 8,000,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: AUGUST 8, 2003; 10:00 AM			
D1	SPARE PARTS FOR BOILER CIRCULATING PUMPS	2BCF02-0707 (NY)	P 11,090,889.00
D2	TRAVELLING REDUCER ASSY	2BCF02-0542 (ZC)	P 2,251,447.00
D3	HIGH PRESSURE PUMP ASSEMBLY	2BCF02-0337 (NY)	P 1,000,000.00
D4	RECIRCULATION VALVE FOR BOILER FEED PUMP W/ ACTUATOR & ACCESSORIES	2BCF02-0572 (ZC)	P 4,500,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: AUGUST 8, 2003; 2:00 PM			
E1	WEAR RESISTANT PLATE	2BCF02-0700 (NY)	P 1,640,000.00
E2	HYDROCHLORIC ACID HCL	2BCF03-0231 (ZC)	P 2,275,000.00
E3	SPARE PARTS FOR HITACHI SULZER ENGINE 16ZV 40/48 MAKE HITACHI SOZEN JAPAN	PB02-03-0062 (JS)	P 3,750,000.00
E4	SPARE PARTS FOR HITACHI SULZER ENGINE MODEL 16ZV 40/48	PB04-03-0002 (JS)	P 2,904,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: AUGUST 11, 2003; 10:00 AM			
F1	WICKET GATE, STAINLESS STEEL CASTING, ASTM A276 TYPE 414, APS	IANG03-0054 (LS)	P 983,250.00
F2	TURBINE RUNNER, STAINLESS STEEL CASTING, ASTM A276 TYPE 414, 48" DA X 28" HEIGHT W/ 13 VANES, APB	IANG03-0053 (LS)	P 963,750.00
F3	PUMP, CENTRIFUGAL, SIZE: 1.5 X 1X8	MCF/MS-02-0779 (JP)	P 400,000.00
F4	PUMP, CENTRIFUGAL, SIZE 4 x 3 x 8	MCF/MS-02-0780 (JP)	P 2,000,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: AUGUST 20, 2003; 2:00 PM			
G1	BULK LOADING SPOUT	MCF/MS-03-0078 (LS)	P 1,300,000.00
G2	PARTS FOR ASH SILO DUSTLESS UNLOADER/MIXER, BRAND UCC	MCF / MS-03-0079 (LS)	P 1,500,000.00
G3	SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATERIALS RELATED TO THE GENERAL RENOVATION/IMPROVEMENTS OF EMAN BEACH BLDG., LOCATED AT EMAN BEACH, BNPP COMPLEX, MORONG, BATAAN	BNPP02-0132 (ZC)	P 2,174,591.03
G4	PARTS FOR GARDER-DENVER AIR COMPRESSOR MODEL #EAU-O-250	MCF/MS-03-0123 (JS)	P 1,400,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the bidding room for the following bidding schedules on:

B1	JULY 14, 2003, 2:00 PM	E1-E4	JULY 31, 2003, 2:00 PM
B2-B5	JULY 16, 2003, 2:00 PM	F1-F4	AUGUST 1, 2003, 2:00 PM
C1-C4	JULY 21, 2003, 10:00 AM	G1-G4	AUGUST 14, 2003, 10:00 AM
D1-D4	JULY 30, 2003, 10:00 AM		

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division, Materials Management Dept. of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 100.00 per schedule starting on June 24, 2003. Issuance of eligibility and bid documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM. No bid documents will be issued 3 days before the date of bidding.

*** Bidder is oblige to participate in E-bidding. Failure to do so will be a sufficient ground for disqualification.**

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registrations issued by former Genco Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of Executive Order 40."

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit – One Percent (1%) Bank Guarantee – One and a half percent (1.5%) Surety Bond – Two and a half percent (2.5%) penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
PSD-NPC

(PDI–June 21, 2003)

People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

A children's oasis in Ortigas

ACTION Kidz is an innovative day care center located at the 4th floor of the Discovery Suites on ADB Avenue. It is a child magnet. The colorful entrance, a medley of reds, blues and greens, is decorated with larger-than-life crayons, ruler and pencil not to mention a very tall tree. The yellow wall is filled with photographs, and a Philippine flag hangs in front, adding to the massive surge of colors. The amenities include:

The Kiddie World, or gym, where most class activities happen. In this spacious and open area, the children have their circle time, story-telling, workshops, arts and crafts, and dance and movement activities. The wooden flooring is clean, muted, and safe for even the most active toddler. In one corner, a collage of photographs of past workshops and field trips add to the already entertaining décor of the gym.

Wonderland is a room for testing activities, such as naps, reading, viewing and eating. The room is completely carpeted and filled with stuffed toys, books, a large television set, and several small tables and chairs. Like Kiddie World, Wonderland is filled with photos of children as well as delightful illustrations and projects created by imaginative young artists.

Then, there is the most enjoyable area in Action Kidz - the Romp Room. Here, the walls and the floors are cushioned with blue mats. Padded obstacles in odd shapes such as tubes, undulating waves, arcs, and circles are scattered haphazardly. Children are free to climb, jump, roll and run. A Keiser Space Maze is found at the end of the room., where children creep and crawl, and sometimes even enjoy a short drop into a hole filled with plastic balls. Members of the Action Kidz Kiddie Club are allowed unlimited use of the place, while the pre-school students use it mostly for their creative movement classes and to improve their large motor skills.

In Action Kidz, all the teachers are highly qualified educators, and very fond of children. Their aim is to allow kids to develop confidence in themselves and with the world around them. Children, especially toddlers, learn to make new friends while learning important skills.

For inquiries and reservations, call the program director at (2) 636-0747 / 636-0790 / 635-2222 local 3851 or visit Action Kidz at the floor of Discovery Suites.

LABONG LODGE #59 F&AM
UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF
THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE
OF
FREE & ACCEPTED MASON OF THE PHILS.

FREEMASONS DONATE TO ORPHANAGE
Labong Lodge #59 and Kamanava Travellers' Inc. under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines recently donated food stuff and shirts to the Shepherd of the Hills Orphanage in San Antonio, Zambales. Shown are the recipients of the goods with Worshipful Master Nelson Yan and president Bro. Jun Cunanan.

IMAGE DIMENSIONS ADVERTISING WINS AWARD FOR DOLE AD
Image Dimensions Advertising was recently awarded the Creative Guild Awards Diwa TV Ad of the Year for 'Bilis', a TV commercial for the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole). In photo (from left) are: Ma. Theresa Soriano, executive director, Dole Institute for Labor Studies; Patricia Sto. Tomas, Dole Secretary; Jorge Peña, Image Dimensions vice president; Erlinda Gamboa, Advertising Foundation of the Philippines executive director; Adi Culalic, Image Dimensions account manager and Mitchell Duran, Dole chief information officer, Institute for Labor Studies.

DHL SPONSORS GOLF TOURNEY
For the second consecutive year, DHL participates in the very exclusive 4th Jaguar Golf Invitational held at the Country Club on March 17 to 21 in Laguna, giving hype and excitement to the tournament. All the players were given the chance to win DHL golf bags, golf balls, umbrellas and pocket calculators for the longest drive and nearest to the pin categories. The team of Modesto Cervantes and Eduardo Lopez captured the championship trophy and represented Jaguar Philippines in the Jaguar Golf Invitational in Scotland last May 11 to 15. In photo from left: Wellington Soong, chair and president of Jaguar Philippines and Elisa May Cuevas, marketing manager for DHL Worldwide Express.

Home hazards: Illegal LPG refilling

AN ALARMING growing consumer issue today is the legal refilling of branded LPG tanks by unauthorized refillers, who then market the product as legitimately coming from respected companies.

Usually, illegally-refilled LPG tanks are underfilled by 10 percent to even 30 percent, or refilled with LPG that is unbranded, thus duping the market into paying premium prices for LPG of unknown quality. Sometimes these illegal refillers even lower the price of their LPG to lure customers away from legitimate dealers.

A more serious consequence, however, are the dangers posed by illegal LPG refilling. Official refilling stations have standard quality control and safety checks that are not in place in illegal LPG refilling, placing consumer households at considerable risk. Already, a number of fires in recent years have been attributed to illegally refilled LPG tanks.

The practice of illegal LPG refilling first became public several years ago, but even today, some consumers unknowingly become victims of illegal LPG refilling. Part of the problem stems from a lack of consumer awareness and vigilance.

The government is taking action: increasing NBI raids have resulted in cases filed against a number of these illegal refilling plants, and a bill is now pending in Congress to regulate quality standards for LPG products, cylinders and facilities, including the implementation of a Product National Standard (PNS) that will make spotting an illegally refilled cylinder easier. Stiffer punishments also await convicted illegal LPG refillers, as the Department of Energy raised penalties from P10,000 per apprehension to P10,000 per LPG tank involved in the apprehension.

Authorities expect that given these stricter measures, illegal LPG refilling will soon become a thing of the past.

PHILIPPINES SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT TEAM BAGS AWARD
The Philippines Supply Chain Management Team won worldwide team recognition for their contributions in advancing the McDonald's vision. In photo are president George Yang (center) and managing director Joseph Lau (far right), joined by Kristina Pujanes, Jenni Ariar, AVP Joachim Huber, Aimee Mananghaya, Marc Dizon, Alex Noche, Lanie Oñate, Diana Yao, Vicvic Visitacion , and Sammy Chu (from left respectively). Other members not in the photo are Carole Bernad, Larua Nabua and Angela Magas. The team award is given to the 'best of the best' cross-functional teams whose accomplishments have provided support for the corporate strategies and achieve the McDonald's vision. Winners are announced from around the world every year.

AMERICAN STANDARD LAUNCHES NEW PRODUCTS
American Standard; one of the world's leading innovators of bathroom fixtures, recently launched several products during the National Convention and Exhibit 2003 sponsored by the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) at the Manila Hotel. As one of the sponsors of the convention, American Standard conducted product presentations on dual flush waterclosets with Microban seat and cover - Tizio and Minis; Camille dual flush waterclosets and thermostat and Miami shower panels. All these new products demonstrated the company's consistent commitment to be the forefront of product quality and innovation.

Bits Clips

The Del Monte Great 202 Quest

THE much awaited "The Great 202 Quest" is on. The four competing teams are: 202 Lucky, 202 Crush ng Bayan, 202 0202, and 202 Torpedoes. 202 Lucky is composed of Tricia Chiongbian, Flip Corpus and Tristan Buan while Carlo Ledesma, Charlene Lontoc, and Raul Oadilla Jr. make up 202 Crush ng Bayan. John Aguilar, Noelle Wenceslao and Dexter Tiangco make up 202 0202 and Rovilson Fernandez, Beatrix Quiogue and Bianca Fornier - 202 Torpedoes. For four consecutive Saturdays at 7:00 p.m., starting today to July 12, Channel 23's Gameplan will provide blow-by-blow account of their great quest. Viewers can win Nike gift certificates by simply texting in their answers to questions that will be flashed on screen during the 4-episode program. So don't miss The Great 202 Quest on Studio 23.

Champs of the track

WHEN it comes to pluck and road sense, racing champ Ferdinand Ong and Polo Motor Oil have them in large measure. Both will hit the road when the Batangas Racing Circuit goes full throttle on June 21 to 22. This will be followed by heart-stumping action on July 26 to 27, Sept. 20 to 21, Oct. 11 to 12, and finally on Nov. 22 to 23, in venues to be announced soon. Make a dash for the clean lube and enjoy smooth action - on the raceway or right in your own vehicle with Polo. For further inquiries or details, visit the Polo website at www.polomotoroil.com, or e-mail grovery@info.com.ph.

'Kami Naman' airs today

ABC Channel 5's new TV show "Kami Naman" airs its maiden telecast today, at 10:30 to 11:00 in the morning. It is a no-nonsense entertaining program bursting with educational, informative and value-laden plot all rolled into one enjoyable 30-minute show. It is directed by multi-awarded TV and commercial megman Rico Samarista. For more particulars, call the program producer, Cirenna Corporate Medium at 426-8072 to 74, telefax 455-4122 and 426-8077.

Accra lawyers feted

THE LAW firm of Angara Abello Concepcion Regala and Cruz Law Offices (Accralaw) recently honored its nine new associates who passed the 2002 bar exams, with a special dinner. Two of them, Eric Recalde and Dorothy Uy, garnered the 3rd and 5th top slots with averages of 90.3 percent and 89.5 percent respectively. Recalde is with the corporate and special projects department of Accralaw, while Uy is with the firm's litigation department. Recalde obtained his Bachelor of Laws degree from the San Beda College of Law through a scholarship grant. Uy is a Juris Doctor graduate of Ateneo de Manila University School of Law. Seven other Accra lawyers likewise successfully passed the 2002 bar exams, namely: John Paul Gaba, Jason Jose Jiao, Joy Anne Leong, Marriane Lozada, Carlo Osi, Hazel Rose See and Vladimir Uy.

ProductFiles

Chef and Brewer now in Greenbelt I

LAST December, a group of young entrepreneurs with a passion for good food, inaugurated the Makati branch of Chef and Brewer in Greenbelt 1, Makati - Legaspi St. cor. Paseo de Roxas. The atmosphere is cool and relaxing. Many discovered to their delight that the food is something to talk about with friends, especially the oyster toppings, the boneless crispy pata, crispy shrimp pasta and the dulong. Many yuppies also discovered that its nightly live entertainment is free of the usual coverage charge. The excellent music is provided by some of the best bands in town. The restaurant serves breakfast at 7:00 a.m., goes on through lunch with a pianist to soothe the lunch crowd, and great food and entertainment at night until 1:00 a.m. The restaurant can accommodate 120 people and is open to parties for whatever reason. Those who want to inquire can call 893-8345 / 47.

AMA extends P400 million student aid scheme

EDUCATION, the greatest investment one can venture on, should not be a financial burden to the parents. Unfortunately, tuition fee hikes are apparent in most schools today.

AMA Education System, in its commitment to deliver the highest standards in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) education to all, regardless of economic status, announced 'no tuition fee increase' for this year.

Aside from this, various forms of financial assistance are being made available to economically disadvantaged yet academically qualified students who want to acquire globally competitive education.

Amable C. Aguiluz IX, president of AMAES, demonstrated his support to students and parents by extending the application for the subsidized tuition fees (STF) program in all campuses of AMA Computer University nationwide until June 30.

The STF program offers financial assistance to qualified students who may enjoy varying levels of subsidies up to 50 percent to cover tuition and other school fees. Qualified students pay only half of the total enrollment cost.

"This year we have set aside the commercial interests of our education system by not increasing our tuition fees and making available student financial programs," reveals Aguiluz IX.

A student applying for the STF program must pass the qualifying entrance exam, socio-economic status investigation, and other selection standards.

"The program aims to fill 10,000 slots available to all qualified freshmen and new student transferees. Students will only be required to pay P500 for the application fee," Aguiluz IX adds.

The STF Program is a joint project of the AMA Foundation and the AMA Education System to help the Filipino youth earn a competitive university degree education at AMA.

Interested students must submit all required forms and documents as follows:

1. Fully accomplished application for financial aid
2. Initial subsidy processing fee of P500
3. Identification photographs of applicant
4. Identification photographs of parents / legal guardian of applicant
5. Original copy of parents' certificate of employment
6. Photocopy of Income Tax Return (ITR)
7. Barangay certification
8. High School report card for freshmen or Transcript of Records for transferees

Aside from this program, Aguiluz pointed out that the AMAES has instituted many other Student Advantage Programs like the Academic Scholarship Grants, the Study Now, Pay Later and Student Loan Program funded by AMA Bank.

AMA Bank has set aside about P400 million for the Student Loan Program to provide qualified parents a maximum loan of up to as high as P300,000. The loan is computed based on a diminishing balance which is payable in up to 10 years.

The AMA Foundation and the AMA Bank have conscientiously worked together to alleviate the plight of parents experiencing financial difficulties by making available these subsidized tuition fee programs.

"Aside from not increasing the tuition fees for this school year, the Student Loan Program is also readily made available to all who wish to enroll but who cannot afford to pay the tuition fees in full," Aguiluz IX said.

The AMA Foundation Council of Advisers include Dr. Angel Alcala, Dr. Onofre Corpuz, Hon. Victor Macalincag, and Hon. Leticia Ramos-Shahani.

Enrollment is still ongoing. For inquiries, contact 373-9920/ 330-0378 or visit any AMA campus near you.

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PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1

1	HULK
2	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3	SANIB
4	HULK

G4 GLORIETTA 4

1	HULK
2	HULK
THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3	HULK 12 05, 2 55, 5 45, 8 35, 11 25
4	HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
5	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6	HULK
7	ANG TANGING INA

GB1 GREENBELT 1

ArtFilm 1	PUNCH DRUNK LOVE (Exclusive) 11 55, 1 50, 3 45, 5 40, 7 35, 9 30
2	ANG TANGING INA 1 40, 4 00, 6 20, 8 40
Onstage	HULK 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30

GB3 GREENBELT 3

GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1	HULK 1 10 4 00 6 50 9 40
GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2	HULK 2 40 5 30 8 20 11 10
GUARANTEED SEATS 3	IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY 1 50 4 00 6 10 8 20 10 30
GUARANTEED SEATS 4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY 1 50 4 00 6 10 8 20 10 30
GUARANTEED SEATS 5	HULK 12 35 3 25 6 15, 9 05 11 15

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4	ANG TANGING INA
5	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

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6	ALAB NG LAHI
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4 (DOLBY)	THE HULK
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Gotesco Ortigas

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2	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 (DTS)	THE HULK
4	ANG TANGING INA
5 (SDDS)	THE HULK

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5	ALAB NG LAHI

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5	THE HULK
6	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
7	ANG TANGING INA

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4	BERTUD NG PUTIK

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7	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
8	BERTUD NG PUTIK
9	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
10	SANIB

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2	OPERATION BALIKATAN
3	ALAB NG LAHI
4	HULK
5	SANIB
6	BERTUD NG PUTIK
7	HULK
8	DARKNESS FALLS
9	ANG TANGING INA
10	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
11	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
12	HULK

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3	OPERATION BALIKATAN
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5	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6	ALAB NG LAHI
7	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
8	OPERATION BALIKATAN
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12	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

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6	DARKNESS FALLS
7	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
8	ALAB NG LAHI
9	ANG TANGING INA
10	HULK
11	SANIB
12	BERTUD NG PUTIK

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6	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
7	HULK
8	HULK

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2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	HULK
4	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
5	THE MATRIX RELOADED
6	DARKNESS FALLS
7	ANG TANGING INA
8	HULK
9	BERTUD NG PUTIK
10	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

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3	THE HOURS
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6	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
7	ANG TANGING INA
8	HULK

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2	HULK
3	HULK
4	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
5	PAKNERS
6	RING 0
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6	BERTUD NG PUTIK

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3	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

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1	HULK
2	RING 0
3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
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5	AGENT CODY BANKS
6	HULK

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8	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

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1	HULK
2	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	HULK
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SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**
Assistant Editor **Stella O. Gonzales**

Has world seen last of SARS epidemic?

DURING the opening of the Global Conference on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia last Tuesday, the World Health Organization announced that the worst was over in the fight against the disease.

"We have seen SARS stopped dead in its tracks," WHO director general Gro Harlem Brundtland announced during the conference.

But Brundtland was quick to add that although the SARS outbreak was coming under control there was a high risk of a resurgence.

"We need to be vigilant to avoid a recurrence in places where the disease has already tapered off or is gone so that we don't have a reentry. We cannot become complacent because we think it is all over," the WHO chief said.

"As long as the virus is there and as long as patients are carrying the virus, it can be spread and as you know, there are still a number of cases."

Cause still unknown

Scientists also still have to pinpoint the cause of the epidemic.

Brundtland said that despite studies linking SARS to animal hosts, the corona virus found in animals was "not exactly identical" to SARS and knowledge of the virus was still sorely lacking.

Hume Field, a veterinary epidemiologist with the Animal Research Center in Queensland, said further tests on animals in the wild were needed to obtain a true picture of the virus source.

Current studies were based on "artificial sources" as animals were taken from the marketplace and not from the wild, he said.

SARS is believed to have originated in civet cats and other game animals sold at food markets in southern China, where the first case of what was later identified as SARS was reported last November.

The disease has killed about 800 people and sickened more than 8,400 worldwide. The disease has a case fatality rate of 15 percent.

New cases spiked in March and April, but have plunged in recent weeks.

Eradication not likely

Health experts said it was doubtful SARS could ever be completely wiped out.

"In the best case, we can see SARS disappear," Brundtland said. "However, we do not know if it can reappear from the animal community and reappear in humanity again."

Field said that if initial research is confirmed and animals are found to be the source of SARS in humans, "eradication is highly improbable" because the virus will have a permanent reservoir.

He said research indicated the corona virus believed to cause SARS had existed in animals for hundreds of years, and recent behavioral changes was the likely trigger for the jump to humans.

"This seems to be an ancient virus," he said. "So I don't think eradication or...control of the host animal is the issue. The issue is to avoid exposure."

DIONISIO BUCCAT III

Treatment

At this point experts also still have to find a cure for SARS. They do agree that the only way to prevent its spread is through the isolation and quarantine of a patient.

Other than that, doctors can only hope that their patient's immune system is strong enough to resist the virus.

SARS was first identified in Vietnam by Dr. Carlo Urbani, an epidemiologist from the WHO office in Hanoi.

On March 15, the WHO issued a global alert, declaring SARS "a worldwide health threat" and ordered travel restrictions in areas where SARS was spreading.

The declaration was followed by a series of monumental efforts on the part of governments and health care staff around the world to establish networks of researchers, epidemiologists and clinicians who collaborated around the clock to identify the cause of SARS, sequence its genome, define clinical features and investigate its modes of transmission.

Because of this worldwide cooperation, the WHO was able to issue more specific warnings and precautions on how hospital staff and the public can protect themselves against the disease.

Although SARS is coming under control, WHO cautioned that the need for continued vigilance is now greater than ever.

As a WHO Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response report said: "As long as a single case of SARS exists or is suspected anywhere in the world, and as long as fundamental questions about the origins of the virus remain unanswered, all countries need to remain on guard."

Reports from Charles Buban, AFP, AP

Asia not prepared to face new epidemics

KUALA LUMPUR—A senior WHO official has warned that Asia, which bore the brunt of the SARS epidemic, was ill-prepared to face new outbreaks due to a lack of commitment and resources.

Hitoshi Oshitani, WHO regional adviser in communicable disease surveillance and response, said the region appeared to have "crossed to the end of the SARS outbreak" in terms of new cases.

But its disease surveillance system remains poor, infrastructure is weak, hospital control measures far from satisfactory and trained personnel in epidemiology and research work are lacking, he said.

Dramatic improvement

"Things have improved dramatically over the past three months but we are still not well prepared for the next round. A lot of work needs to be done," he said on the sidelines of a two-day SARS conference here.

He said a "lack of commitment has resulted in a lack of resources" to fight SARS.

"Not only governments but the donors are not interested in these kinds of general programs to strengthen the surveillance mechanism in the region. It will take time," he said.

The WHO expects to have a clearer picture of the SARS outbreak by November or December, he added. *AFP*

Statins may prevent Alzheimer's disease

PATIENTS who have Alzheimer's disease show an exaggerated loss of mental function at a relatively early age. They may act silly and childish, and their behavior betrays whatever education or professional background they may have had during their younger years.

Scientists have discovered that the gene responsible for increasing the likelihood of early onset Alzheimer's (called APOE-e4) is an apolipoprotein, which contains a fat-protein combination. It has been argued that the bad low-density lipoprotein (LDL) is involved in the early stages of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

Scientists from the Boston Collaborative Drug Surveillance Program carried out a study to see if drugs that interfere with blood fat levels increase the risk of developing Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia. The drugs evaluated in the study were the statins, which are now popularly prescribed to prevent cardiovascular problems.

Statins work directly in the liver to block a substance needed to manufacture cholesterol. They also help the body remove cholesterol from arterial deposits, slowly unplugging blood vessels.

3 million people

Researchers used the medical database of more than three million people in the United Kingdom, and divided it into those taking statins and those who are not. The patients were followed closely for six years.

The study found that the likelihood of developing dementia among those taking statin drugs was only 30 percent.

These results show that statin drugs appear to have a protective effect in reducing the likelihood of dementia or Alzheimer's. It is not clear whether there is a difference in their effectiveness in preventing Alzheimer's as opposed to other types of dementia.

Statins are a remarkable class of drugs, and they will most likely provide the basis for the discovery and development of more specific types of medication for a variety of diseases.

Heart specialists currently recommend statins for preventing heart attacks and strokes in high-risk patients even with an average or normal cholesterol level. Clinical trials have documented the efficacy of simvastatin on the improvement of the cholesterol profile. Taken religiously for three to five years, it can significantly improve the long-term outcome of a majority of high-risk patients.

ILLUSTRATION: DIONISIO BUCCAT III

But the problem with statin therapy is that they're not taken continuously long enough for clinical benefits to be achieved. The high cost of statin therapy is still a major barrier for patient compliance.

With the introduction of affordable and effective statins such as Therapharma's simvastatin (Vidastat), many local medical practitioners are confident that a sustained intake of the life-extending statin can benefit a lot of Filipino heart patients.

Miso soup cuts breast cancer risk

TOKYO—Women who eat three or more bowls of miso soup each day may cut their breast cancer risk sharply, Japanese researchers said on Wednesday.

Miso soup—a concoction of fermented soybean paste dissolved in broth flavored with seaweed and bonito that usually includes bean curd and vegetables—appears on most Japanese tables at least once a day.

Researchers at Japan's National Cancer Center said they found that the health benefits from the soup were due to the presence in soybeans of isoflavones, a powerful phytochemical, or compounds found only in plants.

40 percent risk reduction

They tracked the eating habits of 21,852 women aged between 40 and 59 for 10 years from 1999, according to an abstract of their findings published in the online edition of the US-based Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Women who had three or more bowls of miso soup daily reduced their risk of getting breast cancer by about 40 percent compared with those who had only one bowl.

THREE bowls of miso soup each day can keep breast cancer away, say Japanese researchers.

Women who had two bowls daily cut their risk by 26 percent.

Plant hormone

Isoflavones are also a type of plant hormone whose chemical structure resembles estrogen, albeit a weaker version. They are found in a number of legumes, such as chickpeas, but are most concentrated in soybeans.

Isoflavones are believed to provide numerous health benefits besides reducing breast cancer, including helping prevent coronary heart disease, by mimicking the effects of estrogen on various parts of the body. With breast cancer, they are believed to block the cancer-causing effects of estrogen.

Tofu, natto

Other soy food products, such as tofu and natto (fermented whole soybeans) also have a beneficial effect, the researchers were quoted by the daily Mainichi Shimbun as saying.

Seiichiro Yamamoto, head of the research group, cautioned that miso is no miracle food, as it contains a lot of salt, which can cause stomach cancer and high blood pressure, among other diseases.

He added, though, that a balanced diet containing a lot of soybeans "is healthy overall" and was believed to reduce the risk of developing cancer.

"Generally speaking there is a perception that the traditional Japanese diet is healthy. We will study what part of it had what kind of effect on people. Some were good, some were bad," Yamamoto said. *Reuters, AFP*

Proudly 100% artificial

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

IN GUY de Maupassant's classic short story "The Necklace," a poor young woman borrows a gorgeous glittering necklace from a rich friend and loses it. She and her husband then spend the next several years trying to raise the several thousands necessary to buy an exact duplicate of the necklace, only to find out that item was a cheap piece of paste jewelry.

The story ends with the rich woman telling her friend just how much she really paid for it, and I've always imagined that she trails off because the poor woman has either fainted or died of shock after learning that her years of sacrifice were for naught. So much suffering could have been prevented had she known that an inexpensive copy of the necklace was acceptable.

This is not to say that all imitations are as good as the original. Still, there are cases when imitations are of use.

Regenerating tissues

For instance, researchers from the Living Implants From Engineering (LIFE) initiative, whose goal is "to use tissue engineering and regeneration to produce an endless supply of human vital organs for transplantation," have been working to build a human heart from the cellular level up to fill the needs of thousands of people worldwide.

Given the fact that there are pacemakers and defibrillators and the Abiocor heart already in the market, why build a heart from scratch? Because people want to enjoy their lives longer, and they want a readily available "real" human heart beating in their chests that isn't cloned, that didn't come from a pig, and isn't made of metal.

Replacing crushed bones

Following the same thought process, an Arizona company called Advanced Ceramics Research Inc. (ACR) has been working with the US Office of Naval Research (ONR) to develop a process by which bones crushed in an accident or damaged by disease can be replaced instead of automatically being amputated.

This would be of use in cases such as that of Aron Ralston, the American climber who recently made headlines for cutting his own arm off using a pocketknife when it was pinned under a thousand-pound boulder for three days. Before he left the hospital, he underwent surgery to get fitted for a prosthetic arm so he could resume his mountain climbing adventures.

The technology isn't available to the public yet, and is being tested by the ONR primarily for military purposes. It could be a few years before the process is released to the medical community.

No need for amputation

In the meantime, let's pretend Ralston's accident happened about a decade from now and that within a day of his climbing accident he'd been found and the boulder removed without the arm being amputated on site.

At the hospital, doctors could take a CAT scan or MRI of his good arm and use that to create a three-dimensional image of the bone/s that need to be replaced with what ACR calls a "calcium phosphate coated polymer bone."

Ralston would then undergo surgery, not to lose the arm, but to replace the crushed bone with the ceramic alternative.

Calcium phosphate coat

According to Dr. Ranji Vaidyanathan, the creator of the process, calcium phosphate coat is what allows the bone cells to attach to the polymer over the next two months. Eventually, he says, "the bone begins to 'grow through' the porous scaffold...and the body naturally excretes the calcium phosphate material. In 18 months, the expectation is that the bone will grow back completely, leaving the patient with natural bone."

In other words, according to our hypothetical scenario, two years after the accident, Ralston would be climbing mountains again with both of his arms. In real life, however, he's getting his prosthetic arm in a month and he's talking about putting in a shock absorber so he can bike around the mountains and getting attachments such as hooks to let him continue living the way he did before the accident.

What is 'real'?

Someone once said, "If it looks like a duck, talks like a duck, and walks like a duck, it must be a duck." But is it a real duck if it wasn't created by nature?

The quest for medical devices that look and function just like the organs or body parts they are replacing may eventually lead to a redefinition of the terms "real" and "natural."

It's a good thing the final part of the Matrix trilogy is coming out later this year to help answer that question. In the meantime, ponder the value of the real vs natural in this scenario: cubic zirconia will never be a girl's best friend, but will diamonds created from the ashes of a loved one be as highly prized as the ones created by the forces of nature?

(The author may be reached at massie@massie.com.)

2 youths to represent RP in reg'l eco forum

By Charles E. Buban

LAURETO

NON

WHAT started out as science projects might well be their ticket to fame.

Two college graduates from Mindanao will fly to Sydney next month to represent the Philippines in the first regional youth forum dubbed Eco-Innovate 03.

Bonar Laureto of Bukidnon and Lemuel Benedict Non of General Santos City, both 21, will share their innovative ideas on how to save the planet during the forum on July 13-18, together with other winners from Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, China, India, New Zealand and Australia.

Laureto, a BS Biology graduate from the Central Mindanao University, developed a technology for purifying and recycling solid wastes in sugar production—turning them into inexpensive commercial-grade cement product.

Laureto, who lived next to a sugar factory, found that residues from sugar production—foul-smelling filter cake and noxious bagasse ash—contain components needed for the manufacture of cement-like material.

"(After testing several methods) the result was a cement with an acceptable level of stability. It is less expensive than the standard building material and can help both reduce waste and save natural resources," he said.

His innovation has already been recognized in 2000 by the World Young Researchers for the Environment held in Germany.

New biotechnology

Non's entry, on the other hand, involves a new biotechnology that utilizes algae, a chlorophyll-containing organism, to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in factories and other industrial plants.

Non, a graduate of the Mindanao State University and now a freshman at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, said he still needed to streamline his design and screen what algae species will be most efficient for this biotechnology.

Eco-Innovate 03, which is sponsored by the United Nations Environment Program, the University of New South Wales and Bayer, hopes to bring together young minds with bright ideas across Asia-Pacific for an opportunity to play a greater part in shaping a sustainable future.

Participants in the event will exchange ideas and work with high-profile opinion leaders, experts and business mentors to learn how to convert their ideas on sustainable development into eco-innovations and into viable commercial applications.

"We wanted the youth to let their imagination run wild and come up with bright, innovative ideas to help solve environmental problems," said Dr. Iris Loettgert of Bayer Philippines. "These brilliant young people did not only rise to the challenges of innovative thinking, but they also responded with a display of ingenuity and love for the environment."

Licking ED, finding the fountain of health

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

DIONISO BUCCAT III

MEDICAL FILES

TODAY, I will have the privilege of joining a distinguished panel that will lecture before the country's top 150 internists who are all concerned on how to lick ED.

ED refers to endothelial dysfunction, the primary reason blood vessels narrow, constrict and starve the organs they supply. All cardiovascular problems, from stroke to heart attack to leg gangrene, are initiated and triggered by ED.

I will talk on the vital role of the endothelium, which is microscopic and consists of a single layer of cells that line all blood vessels. When lumped together, the billions of endothelial cells make the biggest and heaviest organ, weighing 1.5 kg. Put the endothelial cells side by side and they're enough to cover an entire tennis court.

The endothelium has an important regulatory function, preserving the integrity of the blood vessel. A healthy endothelium is key to a healthy body. It may well be the key to eternal youth. If anyone can discover any medicine which can keep the endothelium perfectly healthy indefinitely, then he has already found the "fountain of youth."

When the endothelium falters in its regulatory function, ED sets in, followed by a litany of cardiovascular and other medical problems, even resulting in early death.

Metabolic syndrome

In our symposium at Mimosa, Clark, sponsored by Laboratoires Fournier, world-renowned expert Dr. Philip Barter—the head of the Heart Research Institute in Sydney, Australia—will talk about reducing the risk of metabolic syndrome, or MS.

MS is a highly prevalent modern-lifestyle disease with patients showing a cluster of abnormalities such as obesity, high blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol problems.

Dr. Barter will lecture on the role of fibrates, such as fenofibrate (Lipanthyl), in reducing cardiovascular risk. He recommends its combination with a statin when a more aggressive lowering of LDL (the bad type of cholesterol) is needed.

Dr. Ricardo Fernando, founding president of the Institute for the Study of Diabetes at the University of the East, explains that the increasing prevalence of MS is related to our culture of "Eat all you can, and drink all you can."

We're literally eating ourselves to death, I remember him saying during a panel discussion. Little do we realize that what we eat may trigger ED which slowly develops irreversible complications in our body.

He presents some data showing the clinical benefits from the use of fenofibrate which lowers LDL, triglycerides (another bad fat), and increases HDL (the good type of cholesterol). The level of fibrinogen, which worsens ED and makes the blood prone to clot and thus clog the blood vessels, is reduced.

Good, bad cholesterol

The saga of the bad and good cholesterol continues to be a medical thriller as new clinical data are introduced. A good balance of these types of fats is essential in licking ED.

A well-respected heart expert in the Asia-Pacific region, Dr. Byung-il Choi lectured on the importance of raising HDL levels during the recent annual convention of the Philippine Heart Association.

Dr. Choi, a professor at the Ajou University School of Medicine in Korea, explained that the inverse correlation between the level of HDL and the risk of developing coronary artery disease (CAD) has been well demonstrated in many studies.

HDL particles induce the removal of cholesterol from cells, including those in atherosclerotic plaques which are similar to the rusty deposits in a water pipe. The major protein in HDL, which is the apolipoprotein A-1, reduces the cholesterol content in macrophages, the major cell type in atherosclerosis.

Dr. Choi cited the Diabetes Atherosclerosis Intervention Study (DAIS) to further stress the importance of raising the HDL level to prevent CAD. Results of the DAIS showed that an increase in HDL reduces cardiac events and other risks in patients with CAD.

The correction of lipid abnormalities, particularly the reduction of triglycerides and the increase in HDL with fenofibrate, reduces the progression of atherosclerosis by as much as 40 percent in type 2 diabetes patients.

The study also showed that HDL increase through fenofibrate treatment significantly reduced the progression of atherosclerosis by 42 percent.

We have good drugs that can improve ED including cholesterol-lowering drugs (statins and fibrates), antiplatelets (aspirin), blood-vessel enhancing drugs (ACE inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers, calcium antagonists), some drugs for diabetes (glitazones), omega-3 PUFA, hormones for postmenopausal women.

However, it cannot be overemphasized that the mainstay is still healthy lifestyle. We are what we eat, do and even think. It may be true when they say the fountain of health and youth is in us. We really don't have to travel far to find it.

RP-US science meet

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

A CONSTANT frustration for Filipino scientists is the fact that much cutting-edge work can best be done with proper facilities and funding, which are more abundant abroad. I know, there are many creative scientists who make do with local resources, and I salute them. In fact, I have written about them in the past. But still, often the grass is indeed greener on the other side.

Thus, it is heartening that many Filipino scientists who have migrated (mostly to the US) have not forgotten their native land. Some are balik-scientists, who stay in the country for several months to help their counterparts in specific areas. Others contribute by finding opportunities for graduate students further their research in the US.

Around 100 of these scientists have formed their own group, called the Philippine-American Academy of Scientists and Engineers (Paase).

According to vice president Romel Gomez: "The group is comprised of world-class experts in the diverse areas of physics, biology, mathematics, economics, medicine, chemistry, agriculture and engineering. The primary objectives of Paase are to serve the Philippines as a think tank and to promote scientific progress through transfer of technology.

"Many of its members have distinguished appoinments as professors, department chairs and deans of some of the best universities in the US and the Philippines, and as senior scientists in highly influential institutions such as Nasa, NIH, USDA, FDA and the World Bank. Two of its members, Professors Jose B. Cruz (Ohio State) and Alfonso Ang (UC Berkeley) belong to the US National Academy of Engineering, the most prestigious engineering academy in the US. Last year, the California Institute of Technology selected one of its members, Prof. Toto Olivera (Utah) as their alumnus of the year."

Annual meetings

Paase meets annually, and every three years, the meet is held in the Philippines. From July 11 to 13 this year, the 23rd annual meeting of Paase (in cooperation with the Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science, PhilAAS) will be held at the Manila Hotel, on the heels of the biggest annual scientific celebration of them all—the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) convention.

(July has been designated years ago as Science Month.)

The PAASE-PhilAAS conference theme this year is "Socio-economic Development Through Science and Technology." Major topics to be discussed by US-based scientists include "Satellite Remote Sensing Systems for Environmental Studies" (Josefino Comiso), "Salt-Sensitive Hypertension Caused by the G Protein-Coupled Receptor Kinase 4 Variant" (Pedro Jose), "Ensuring Viral Safety of Blood" (Maria Luisa Virata), "Scanning Tunneling Microscopy" (Romel Gomez), "Participatory Modeling of Sustainable Forest Management" (Gil Mendoza), "Renewable Energy in Developing Countries: The World Bank Experience" (Ernesto Terrado), "Detection of Biological Particles in the Air for Homeland Security" (Carlito Lebrilla and his team), and "Luminescent Metal Ligand Complexes in Sensing" (Leah Tolosa).

More than 30 talks and posters will be presented during the conference, with the majority coming from local scientists. I am pleased to note that my colleagues in the Ateneo will be presenting papers on physical mapping of the Tungro spherical virus resistance gene in rice (Vivian Panes, with Gabriel Romero and Arlen Anglacer of the Philippine Rice Research Institute in Nueva Ecija) and analysis of PCBs from water samples (Fabian Dayrit, Lieza Danan, Christine Lee, Ian Ken Dimson, John Paul Catalan, Giovanni Lao, Christian Salvan). I will discuss how anchors can be used to revise probability and statistics misconceptions.

Officers

The current officers of Paase are Prof. Ben de Lumen (Nutritional Sciences Dept., UC Berkeley), president; Prof. Romel D. Gomez (Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, Univ. of Maryland), vice president/president-elect; Prof. Leah Tolosa (Chemical and Biochemical Engineering Department, University of Maryland. Baltimore County), secretary; and Dr. Ma. Luisa Virata (US Food and Drug Administration), treasurer.

The current board members are Prof. Alfonso Albano (Physics Department, Bryn Mawr University), Dr. Catalino Blanche (US Department of Agriculture), Professors Luly Cruz (Marine Science Institute, UP Diliman), Onofre de Jesus (Chemistry Department, Univ. of Wisconsin), Romel D. Gomez (ECE Dept., Univ. of Maryland), Pedro Jose (Georgetown School of Medicine), Carlito Lebrilla (Chemistry Department, University of California, Davis), Miren Santos (Chemistry Department, UP Diliman) and Florante Quiocho (Baylor College of Medicine).

Science is not a solitary undertaking, nor is it the monopoly of a single nation. The participation of our countrymen and women in other shores is timely, and very much welcome.

For more information on Jose Cruz, Josefino Comiso, Luly Cruz, and Fabian Dayrit, please refer to my book "Ten Outstanding Filipino Scientists," available in National Book Store.

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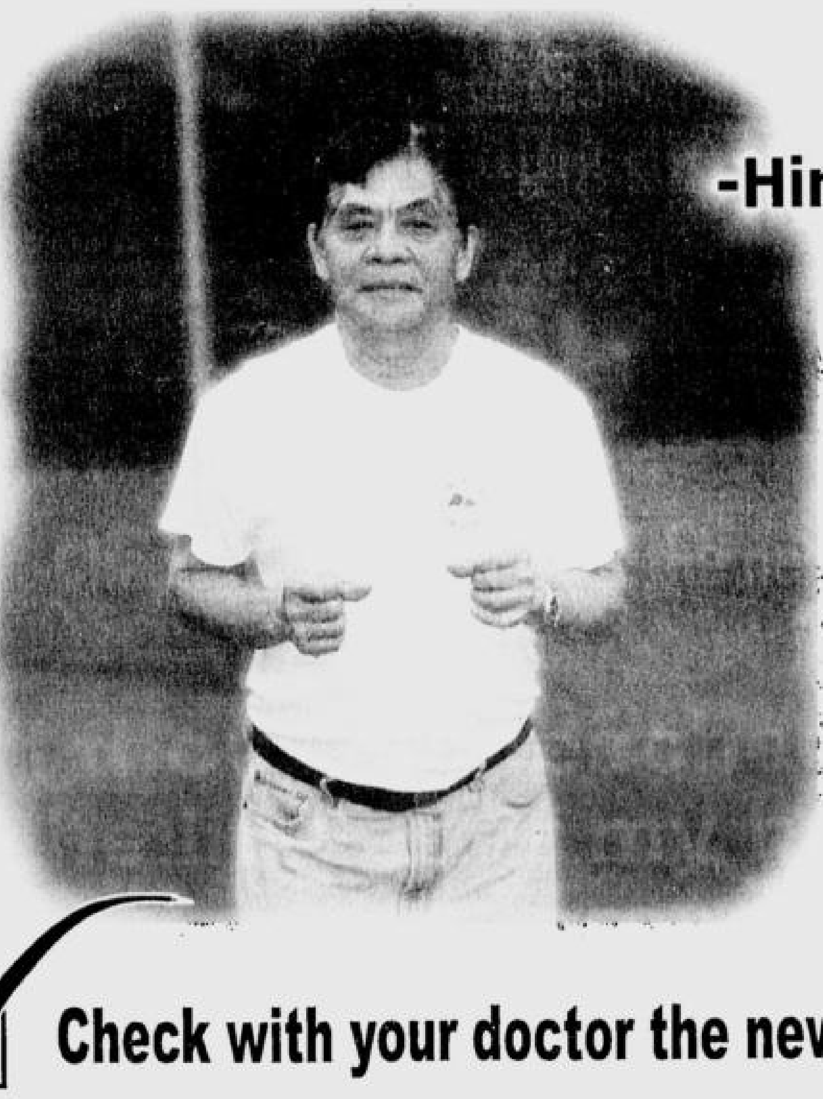

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REFERENCES:
[1] Kjekshus et al. Reducing the risk of Coronary Events: Evidence from the Scandinavian Simvastatin Survival Study (4S) Am J Cardiol 1995, 76.64C-68C.
[2] Heart Protection Study Collaborative Group MRC/BHF Heart Protection Study of cholesterol lowering with simvastatin in 20,536 high-risk individuals: a randomized placebo controlled trial. The Lancet 2002 July; 360 (9236): 7-22.

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BUSINESS

US unemployment claims fall

WASHINGTON—Economic gloom lifted slightly on Thursday with reports showing a fall in US jobless claims, signs of a pick-up in mid-Atlantic factories and a strong gain in a broad economic forecasting gauge.

The Labor Department said first-time claims for unemployment insurance fell for the second week in a row last week, while the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank said its June factory index rose after three months of declines.

The private Conference Board said its leading indicators index in May logged its largest rise since December 2001, while a separate Commerce Department report said the US current account deficit widened nearly 6 percent in the first quarter to a record $136.1 billion.

The Philadelphia Fed said factories in the mid-Atlantic region boosted production, feeding hopes a revival may be brewing for the moribund manufacturing sector.

The bank said its factory business conditions index rose to 4.0 in June from -4.8 in May, the first month of growth since February and a tad above forecasts of analysts surveyed by Reuters.

However, the 3.3 forecast was not the one that prevailed in the markets when the report was issued—many economists had raised their estimates sharply—after a jump in the New York Fed's Empire State survey.

Taken together, Thursday's reports fostered hopes that the long-awaited post-war economic pick-up may be a bit nearer, but most economists were reluctant to celebrate yet.

The Labor Department said first-time claims for state jobless benefits, a rough guide to the pace of US layoffs, dropped by 13,000 to 421,000 in the June 14 week from a revised 434,000 the prior week.

The claims number was lower than economists had expected, but some cited the worrying fact that claims have been stuck above 400,000—a level regarded as signaling labor market erosion—for 18 weeks.

In more upbeat news, the Conference Board said its index of leading indicators rose one percent in May, well ahead of the expectations of Wall Street economists, who had forecast a 0.6-percent rise. *Reuters*

Japan economy fading

TOKYO—A key measure of Japanese economic activity slipped in April from March, adding to evidence that a recovery in the world's second-largest economy is some way off.

The all-industries index, which measures activity in sectors such as construction and manufacturing, fell 0.5 percent, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said on Friday.

A poll of 21 economists by Reuters journalists last week had produced a median forecast of a 0.7-percent decline.

Earlier this week the government downgraded its assessment of business conditions, saying in a monthly report that exports and capital spending were no longer providing support to the economy as they had earlier this year.

Exports, one of the main props of the economy, have taken a hit in recent months because of uncertainties over conditions in major markets such as the United States and Asia.

While Japanese officials continue to predict a US recovery later this year, the effects of the SARS outbreak on Asia's economies have yet to become fully clear. *Reuters*

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Asian stocks, dollar ease

SINGAPORE—Shares and the dollar drifted lower in Asia on Friday as doubts grew about the outlook for a US economic recovery, while Japanese government bonds (JGBs) rebounded from a massive sell-off the previous day.

Asia's loses were more modest, with Japan's Nikkei stock average ending the morning down 0.14 percent at 9,097.81, after closing on Thursday at its highest level since Dec. 3.

"We had the drop in New York, as well as the plunge in JGBs yesterday, and there are slight fears of overheating around," said Zenshiro Mizuno, senior managing director at Marusan Securities.

"But at the same time we continue to see aggressive buying by foreigners, which is supporting the supply/demand situation."

Losses on other major Asian stock benchmarks ranged from 0.2 percent in Taiwan to 0.6 percent in Hong Kong and Singapore.

The dollar slipped versus the yen as traders struggled to determine if the US economy was headed for a comeback. The currency was quoted at 118.08 yen versus 118.45 in late US trade and at $1.1728 against the euro versus $1.1720.

Key 10-year JGB futures rose more than one point as investors saw a bargain hunting opportunity after a huge sell-off pushed the benchmark to a six-month low.

The September contract rose to a high of 143.44, up 1.04 point on the day.

Japanese banks, spooked after a softer-than-expected 20-year auction on Tuesday and falls in US Treasuries, were heavy sellers of JGBs on Wednesday and Thursday, pushing down the September contract to a low of 141.80 on Thursday.

US oil futures rose 17 cents to $30.13 a barrel. Gold rose to $361.90 an ounce from $361.10 at the US close. *Reuters*

Taiwan cuts '03 export forecast

TAIPEI—Taiwan trade authorities have cut their forecast for 2003 export growth to 5.32 percent from 7.01 percent, reflecting the impact of the SARS outbreak in the region, a trade official said Friday.

"Exports to China, which has been hardest hit by the epidemic, and other countries were impacted. After taking SARS consideration, we lowered the growth estimate," the official from the Board of Foreign Trade (BOFT) said.

China ranks as Taiwan's largest market, taking about a quarter of the island's exports which totaled $130.64 billion in 2002.

Bilateral trade has slowed down since SARS struck, with exports to the mainland feared to drop substantially, the official said.

China's tally in the epidemic remained 347 dead from 5,326 infections Thursday.

The official said the BOFT would release details of the new forecast, made by the Chung Hua Institution of Economic Research, in the next few weeks.

The think tank in March put projected export growth at 7.01 percent.

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) has killed 84 people out of 695 cases since the first infection was detected here in mid-March.

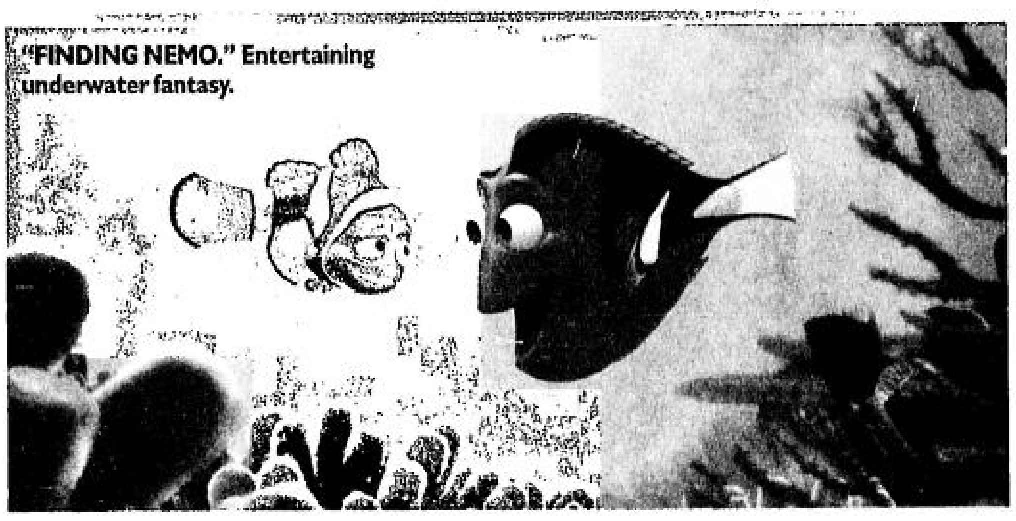
The World Health Organization lifted its SARS travel advisory against Taiwan Tuesday, leaving the Chinese capital of Beijing the only area on the WHO's list.

Taiwan has adopted various measures in an effort boost exports, the BOFT official said, noting that Economics Minister Lin Yi-fu is scheduled to lead a delegation to Europe early next month to attract foreign buyers.

The government-sponsored China External Trade Development Council has decided to expand several international trade exhibitions, including those on computer products, food products and aerospace products, which were delayed by the SARS spread, in the second half of this year.

In May, Taiwan's exports grew 2.1 percent from a year earlier to $11.27 billion, compared with a year-on-year increase of 5.6 percent to $11.47 billion in April. *AFP*

SATURDAY*Special*



"FINDING NEMO." Entertaining underwater fantasy.

'Finding Nemo' tops US box-office anew

LOS ANGELES—The fish tale "Finding Nemo" resurfaced as the box-office leader, taking in $28.4 million to push its 17-day total to $191.5 million.

Last weekend's No. 1 movie, "2 Fast 2 Furious," fell to second place with $18.7 million.

New movies

The weekend's new movies in the United States opened modestly. The animated "Rugrats Go Wild" was No. 4 with $11.6 million, Harrison Ford's police comedy "Hollywood Homicide" came in fifth with $11.1 million and the prequel "Dumber & Dumberer: When Harry Met Lloyd" was No. 6 with $10.8 million.

The top 20 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. and Nielsen EDI Inc. are:

1. "Finding Nemo," Disney, $28,384,483, 3,425 locations, $8,287 average, $191,487,211, three weeks.
2. "2 Fast 2 Furious," Universal, $18,679,370, 3,418 locations, $5,465 average, $83,584,700, two weeks.

FINDING/ C4

Calista opens up about Harrison

NEW YORK—Calista Flockhart has been quiet about her romance with Harrison Ford for the past year and a half, but not anymore.

Mushy

The star of TV's "Ally McBeal" was positively mushy about the 60-year-old actor in an interview with People magazine.

"I like the way he looks first thing in the morning," Flockhart tells the magazine for its June 23 issue.

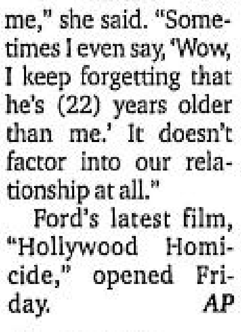
"It's not handsome. It's more cute. He looks like a little boy. You know how when you wake up in the morning and you're kind of puffy and rumpled and you look kind of vulnerable? That's what he looks like."

No age gap

The 38-year-old actress says the age gap between her and the "Indiana Jones" star has never bothered her. The two met at the Golden Globe Awards in January 2002; Flockhart and her 2-year-old son, Liam, moved into Ford's Los Angeles home earlier this year.

"It doesn't faze me," she said. "Sometimes I even say, 'Wow, I keep forgetting that he's (22) years older than me.' It doesn't factor into our relationship at all."

Ford's latest film, "Hollywood Homicide," opened Friday. *AP*



FLOCKHART. Moved into Ford's home earlier this year.

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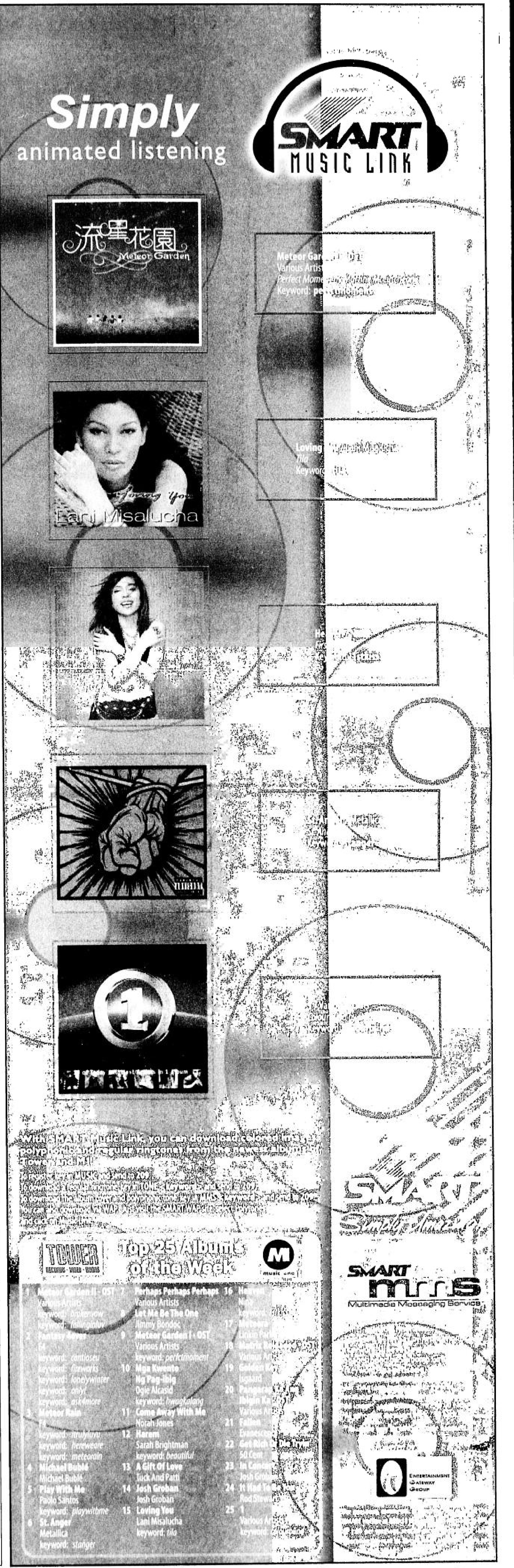

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Filipino-American actors chalk up successes in stage productions

By Nestor U. Torre

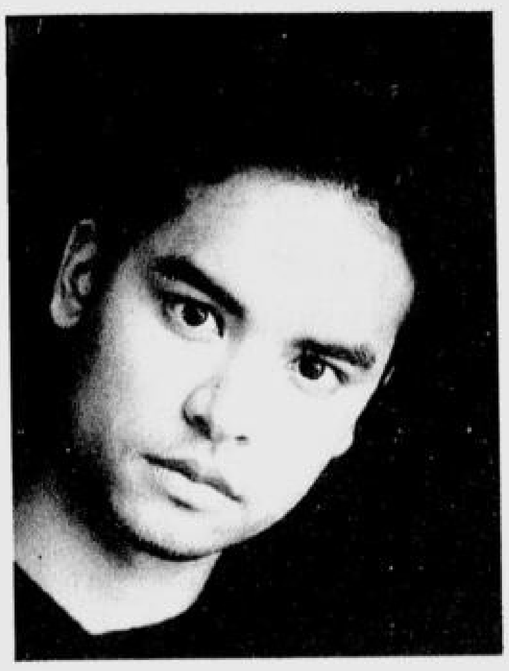
MORE Filipino-American actors are making waves in the performing scene in the United States. After Paolo Montalban, Lea Salonga, Lou Diamond Phillips, Jose Llana and Ching Valdes-Aran, Ma-Yi actors Ramon de Ocampo, Orlando Pabotoy, Jojo Gonzales, Art Acuña and Ron Domingo have reaped praises for their ensemble work in the play, "The Romance of Magno Rubio."

Highlight

(Fortuitously, the play will be brought over by Ma-Yi next month, with performances at the CCP starting July 16, as a highlight of the Sangandaan Festival.)

In addition to winning an Obie (Off-Broadway) ensemble performance award for their work in "Magno Rubio," the Fil-Am actors have been chalking up successes in other productions.

For instance, Ramon de Ocampo played the lead role of Kate in Yale Repertory Theater's staging earlier this year of Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew." The all-male production format harks back to the days of Shakespeare himself, when female roles were played by men.



DE OCAMPO. Played Katharina in Yale Repertory's all-male staging of Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew."

DE OCAMPO, right, with fellow actors Orlando Pabotoy and Art Acuña proudly display their Obie Awards citations.

Rave review

The Yale Repertory staging got a rave review from theater critic Malcolm Johnson of the Hartford Courant. Some pertinent excerpts:

"The production lifts the Yale Rep season to its high point, thanks in large part to director Mark Lamos' collaboration with Ramon de Ocampo, who delivers a wonderfully modulated and deeply compelling characterization as Katharina, or Kate the Cursed, the shrew of the play's title.

"As Kate is the pivotal figure in this skillful blending of Elizabethan one-sex casting and macho Latino life, De Ocampo's performance proves vital to the success of a production with much else to commend it.

Great value

"The great value of his acting derives from his utter refusal to camp or exaggerate female mannerisms. De Ocampo, whose biceps are decidedly beefy, plays Kate as an especially physical actress might.

"He is funny as she fumes, passionate as she yields. In the great final speech advising subservience, De Ocampo rises to the comic catharsis magnificently, with fire and eloquence."

In theater circles, a rave review like that is "to die for," so De Ocampo must be a very happy actor, indeed. He's also a very busy one, as his other credits attest:

Supporting role

In the movies, he played a supporting role in "Hamlet," with Campbell Scott in the title role. He had a principal role in "Personals" with Malik Yoba, directed by Mike Sargent, and also in "The Look." Rounding out his film credits is his supporting role in M.T. Sheridan's "Leadcatcher."

On television, he's played a principal role in Hallmark Hall of Fame's "Night Ride Home" with Ellen Burstyn and Thora Birch, directed by Glen Jordan. And he's been a guest star on series like "Law and Order," "Cosby," "Now and Again," "The Education of Max Bickford" and "Wasteland," and on soaps like "One Life to Live" and "Guiding Light."

Most significant work

But it's in the theater where De Ocampo has done his most significant work. Aside from Ma-Yi and Yale Repertory, he's acted for other companies and venues like The Public Theater, Signature Theater, The Delacorte Theater, The Studio Theater, O'Neill Playwrights Conference, Melting Pot Theater Co., The Lark Theater, Cherry Lane Theater Alternatives and The Kennedy Center.

He's also been directed by such ace theater artists as Maria Irene Fornes ("Letters from Cuba"), Michael Grief ("Dogeaters"), Eric Waterhouse ("Romeo and Juliet"), John Going ("Love! Valour! Compassion!") and Richard Corley ("The Merchant of Venice").

De Ocampo's fine performances have been singled out for a number of awards—the Hausman award of the Princess Grace Foundation (for excellence in acting), the Earphone award for exceptional audio performance, and Best Supporting Actor at the WDC Theater Festival.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SEX DRIVE / JAIL BRIDE
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	ALAB NG LAHI
B	BERTUD NG PUTIK
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
CINEMA-2	PAKNERS
CINEMA-3	BIGAY HILIG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HULK
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HULK
CINEMA-6	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-7	MATRIX - RELOADED
CINEMA-8	OPERATION: BALIKATAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HULK
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HULK
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SANIB
CINEMA-12	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-14	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-15	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
CINEMA 2	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA 3	HULK
CINEMA 4	SANIB
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
Ali 2	SANIB
Ali 3	BERTUD NG PUTIK
Ali 4	THE HULK
Ali 5	THE HULK
Ali 6	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
Ali 7	TANGING INA

ARANETA COLISEUM

JUNE 16,18,20	WORLD SLASHER CUP DERBY
JUNE 15 & 22	PBA GAMES
JUNE 28	NCAA OPENING CEREMONIES
JULY 12	UAAP OPENING CEREMONIES
JULY 13	UAAP GAMES

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12:00, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15, 11:00
PG13
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THE HULK PG13 2:10,5:10,8:10	THE HULK PG13 12:20,3:20, 6:20,9:20	THE HULK PG13 12:55,3:55, 6:55,9:55
THE HULK PG13 11:45,2:45, 5:45,8:45	BRUCE ALMIGHTY PG13 1:00,3:10,5:20, 7:30,9:40	THE HULK PG13 1:30,4:30, 7:30,10:30

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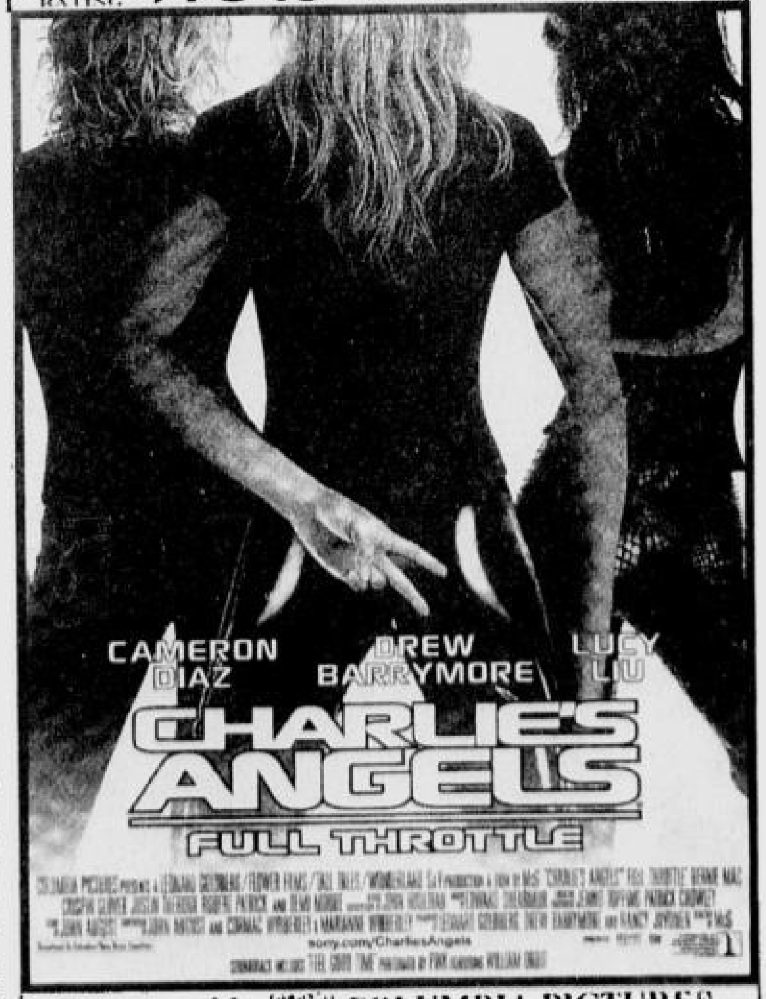

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Triple treat from Regine Velasquez

By Edmund L. Sicam

FOR multi-media star Regine Velasquez, blessings come in threes.

First, her movie "Pangarap Ko ang Ibigin Ka" with Christopher de Leon topped the box office at the Manila Film Festival.

The feel-good movie does not use special effects, nor does Regine bare a lot of skin (her bedroom scene with Boyet was quite tame) but moviegoers queued up to watch Regine insinuate herself into Boyet's quiet existence.

VELASQUEZ. Not identified with a permanent love team.

First time

The first time Regine did well at the box office, Christopher was also her co-star. The movie, "Wanted: Perfect Mother," was a modest success but her succeeding assignments that paired her off with Robin Padilla, Aga Muhlach and Richard Gomez all made a killing, and that has Regine worried.

"Before, I didn't really concern myself with the box office." says Regine. "With 'Pangarap,' it was different. I kept track of how the movie was doing. May pressure *na kasi* for the movie to do as well or better than the previous ones. Of course, I'm happy that 'Pangarap' did well."

Luck also had something to do with "Pangarap's" success. It was shown at a time when people started tiring of formula movies and looked for fresh ideas. That explains why Ai Ai de las Alas' "Tanging Ina" trounced FPJ's "Pakners" at the tills.

Critics

People have not yet gotten tired of Regine partly because she's not identified with a permanent love team. Though critics may disapprove of the singer's brand of comedy, her fans positively adore her when she acts like a child. It is the *kilig* factor at work again.

Entertainment writers present at the Viva blowout for her movie advised her, however, to try something new in her next movie. I half-seriously suggested a musical with bold scenes and, as expected, she jokingly rode on the idea. But she obviously is not ready for sexy movies.

She's also not ready for heavy drama, even if she has tried it on the boob tube. Besides, her fans would not like it.

Appeal

The second reason why Regine is smiling broadly these days is due to the fact that the appeal of her Maximedia concert with Martin Nievera has not yet waned. She is scheduled to do two repeats, one at the Clark Field Amphitheater in Pampanga on June 28 and then back to the Araneta Coliseum on July 5.

She's booked solid till the end of the year for live performances. Next month, Regine is helping a friend who runs Bridges Foundation, a school for mentally-challenged children, to raise funds for a new building.

Finally, Regine's successful talent search " Star for a Night" is moving to GMA-7 with a new title, "Search for a Star." The format

TRIPLE/ C4

MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED

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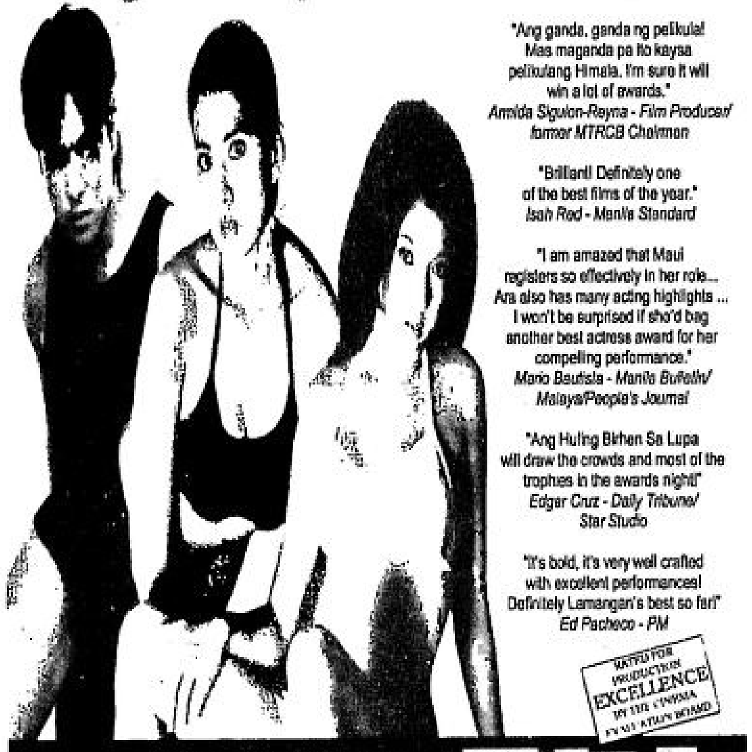
PAHUHULI KA PA BA?
ara mina jay manalo maui taylor
ang huling birhen sa lupa



"Ang ganda, ganda ng pelikula! Mas maganda pa ito kaysa pelikulang Himala. I'm sure it will win a lot of awards."
Armida Siguion-Reyna - Film Producer/ former MTRCB Chairman

"Brilliant! Definitely one of the best films of the year."
Isah Red - Manila Standard

"I am amazed that Maui registers so effectively in her role... Ara also has many acting highlights ... I won't be surprised if she'd bag another best actress award for her compelling performance."
Mario Bautista - Manila Bulletin/ Malaya/People's Journal

"Ang Huling Birhen Sa Lupa will draw the crowds and most of the trophies in the awards night!"
Edgar Cruz - Daily Tribune/ Star Studio

"It's bold, it's very well crafted with excellent performances! Definitely Lamangan's best so far!"
Ed Pacheco - PM

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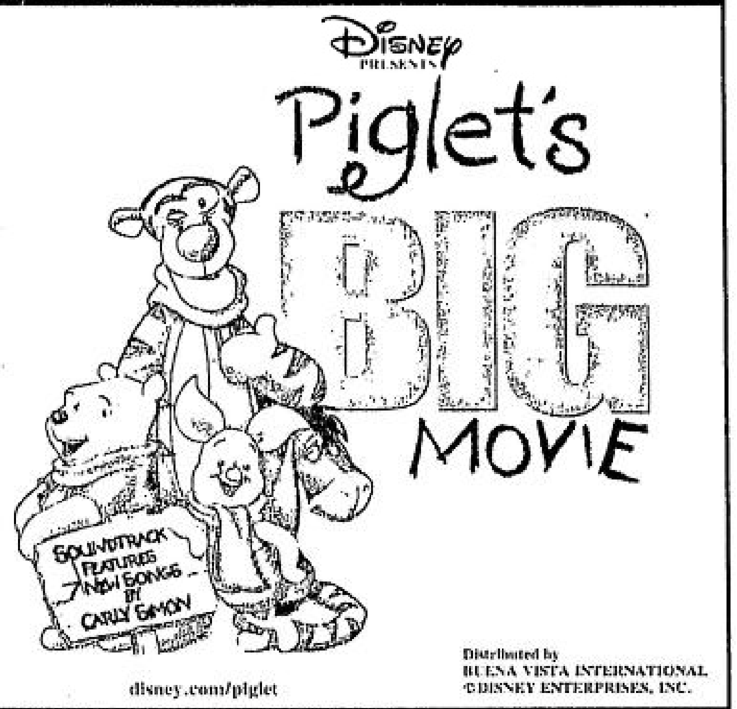

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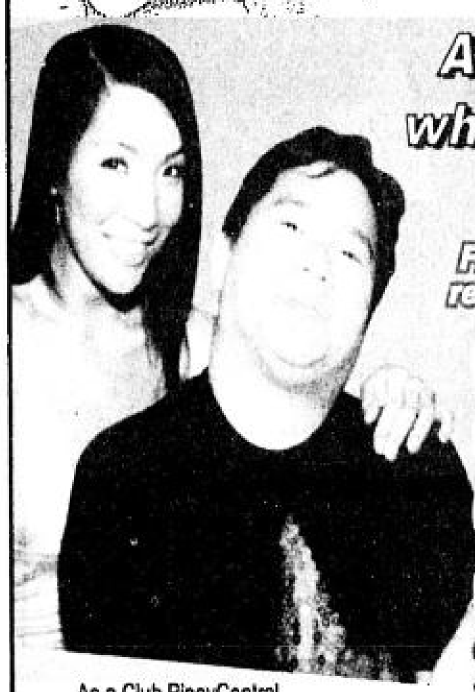

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3. To earn points/stars, the member simply has to participate in any text activity of ABS-CBN, PinoyCentral, DZMM, Star Records, Star Cinema, ABS-CBN Publishing and all other text activities going through the access number 2366.
4. The star points system is as follows: P2.00/2.50=1 star, P10=4 stars, P15=6 stars, P20=8 stars. For example, for a service costing P15.00, the member earns 6 stars.

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5. At the end of the month, the texter can exchange his stars for FREE instant downloadable rewards.

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Models capable of downloading logos but not MMS products given above	SMS Logo	SMS Logo with your nickname	Ringtone
Models not capable of downloading logos and MMS products	Fortune reading	Inspirational Message	Horoscope reading

*Designs change monthly.

6. To check the number of stars accumulated for the month, text CLUB STARS and send to 2366.
7. The Club will send an alert to all members qualified to receive a reward at the end of the month, together with the redemption process.
8. Every month, the texter starts with 0 points. However, he will still have a record of the stars he has accumulated over the months since he has joined as this can still be exchanged for premium rewards.

PREMIUM REWARDS (beginning September 1, 2003)
9. Stars earned since the member has joined can be exchanged for Premium Rewards, even if these has been used for redeeming Monthly Rewards.
10. *Beginning September 1, 2003, these stars can be exchanged for the following premium rewards:

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500	ABS-CBN Studio Tour
650	P200 SM Gift Certificate
700	Star Records CD
850	P300 Cellphone call card
1150	StarStudio 6-month subscription
1300	Food Magazine Subscription 6-month subscription
1350	Star Cinema VCD
1430	P500 Cellphone call card

11. Redemption mechanics can be obtained by texting CLUB PREMIUM to 2366.
12. Metro Manila residents can claim their rewards at ABS-CBN Interactive, Inc., 9F ELJ Communications Center, Mother Ignacia, Quezon City. Rewards for provincial winners will be sent via courier.
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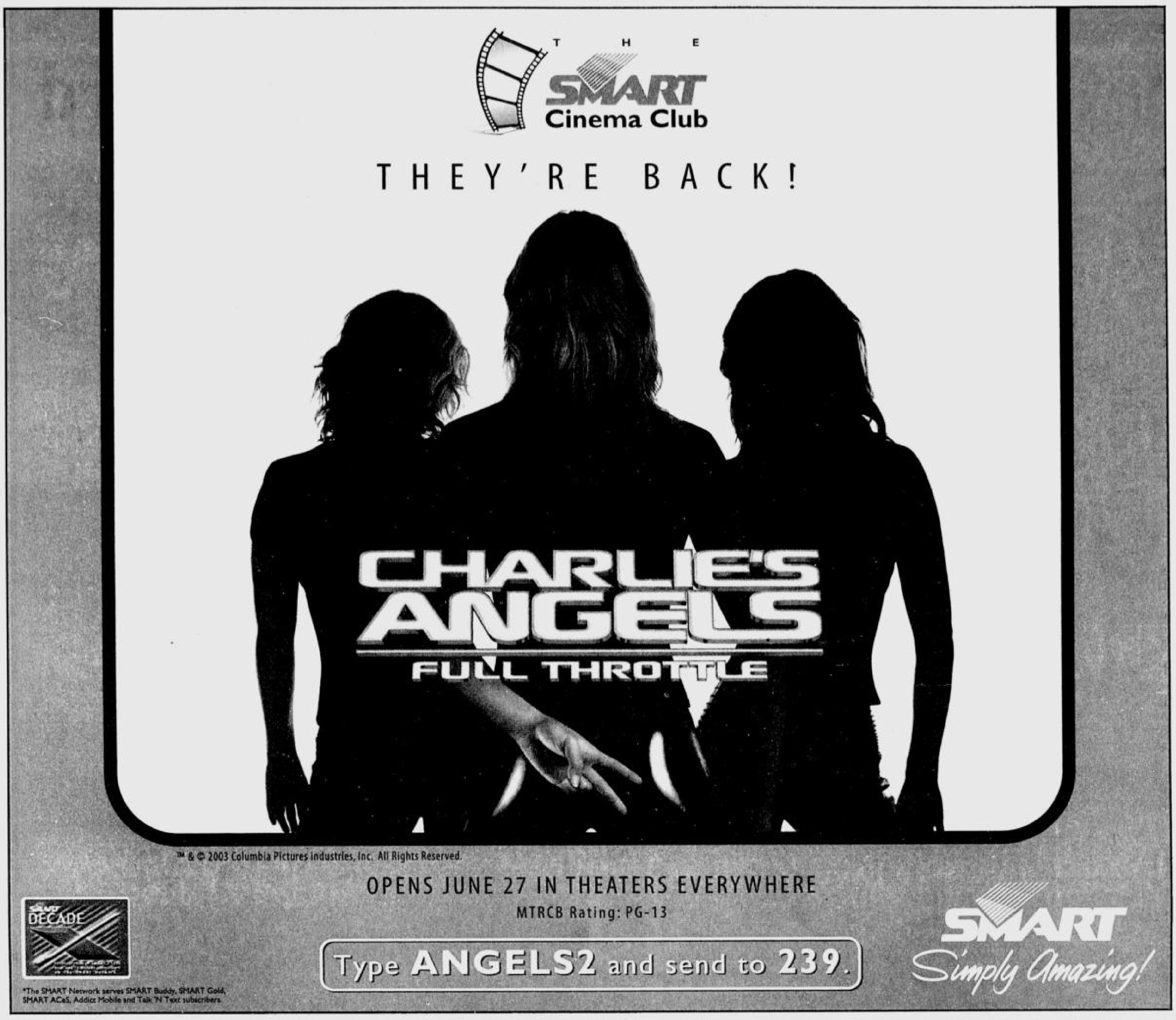
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How Jose Llana landed his first Broadway role

By Behn Cervantes

JOSE Llana is now known as the good-looking and tall Filipino-American leading man of Lea Salonga in the latest Broadway revival of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The Flower Drum Song."

Handpicked

However, before Jose was handpicked by Mary Rodgers, daughter and heiress of composer Richard, to star in this rewritten version, he already had quite an impressive portfolio.

He was Lun Tha in the other "Asian" Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The King and I," starring Filipino-American mestizo Lou Diamond Philips. He was only 19 when he landed the plum role coveted by hundreds of other aspiring young actors. How he landed the role is quite a story:

Jose was 18 when he read about the auditions for the revival. Roles for Asian-American in major Broadway productions are few and far between so he decided to give it his best try. After all, he had gone to the Big Apple hoping for a delicious bite of it. However, he knew he was up against steep and more experienced competition. He decided to carefully plan his strategy.

Union members

First, he opted not to go to the Open Auditions because wannabes are hardly ever given the time to sing their best. Instead, he opted to join the Equity Auditions meant for union members. But that audition would be stressful and competitive. What was the young talent to do? How was he to be noticed?

Well, circumstances unfolded unexpectedly and an opportunity presented itself to the eager beaver when an auditionee's name was called and there was no answer. Before the name could be passed over, Jose, the teenager from Virginia, raised his hand and presented himself as the "absent" actor. He was made to sing a number from the show he had just learned the day before, and was asked to come back.

However, the casting director was about to stamp "Call Back" on the audition slip of the absent actor, so daring Jose had to own up to his subterfuge, unsure of the consequences.

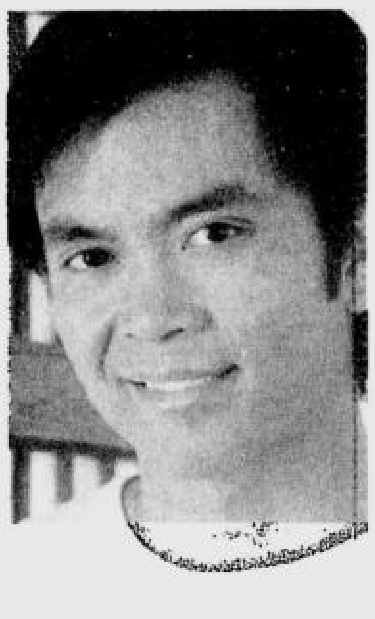
Impressed

Instead of getting angry, however, the casting director was impressed by the young man's gumption and called his brave ploy "ballsy." He had held many auditions and been witness to all kinds of tricks, but this one pleased him immensely. It amused him so much that he told many important people about it. This circle included the influential Mary Rodgers, who thereafter took more notice of Jose.

After the stressful auditions were over, the casting committee remembered Jose and his audition best of all. Mary then handpicked him for the plum role of Lun Tha.

Jose's bravado had gotten him noticed. But, his training as singer and dancer got him the role, as well as the critical praise that came his way after his sterling performance in "The King and I," followed by "Rent," "Streetcorner Symphony" and then "The Flower Drum Song."

That same fine voice has brought him back to the country he left when he was only three years old. Jose Llana is recording an album of Filipino songs for Viva Records. His fine voice, looks, professional training and mature attitude have earned him ample success. More is yet to come. However, to attain the coveted center stage he now enjoys, it took youthful gumption to pull off that daring audition in 1994. No guts, no glory!



LLANA. Youthful gumption.

'Wish Ko Lang' discovers a very promising singer

By Jocelyn Valle

WHEREVER she goes, people come up to Bernadette Sembrano and ask her to make their wishes come true. "But I always tell them to write to our show," says the comely host of "Wish Ko Lang."

And right away, adds Bernadette, they find a corner and hastily scribble their requests.

Videoke bar

Dexter Mejala Bagason, 20, had a different experience one day at a videoke bar in Olongapo. A researcher for "Wish Ko Lang" spotted him and soon the staff and crew of Channel 7's Saturday-afternoon program went to interview Dexter and his family in their home. (Televiewers will meet him on the show today.)

Dexter's ardent dream is to make it to the mainstream music scene. He got a taste of it recently when "Wish Ko Lang" arranged for him a flurry of activities befitting a debuting singing sensation—a pictorial with lensman Xander Angeles, a session at Pink Noise with songwriter-arranger Jimmy Antiporda supervising his recording of Louie Ocampo's "Kahit Isang Saglit," a music-video shoot with director Louie Ignacio, and a meeting with the entertainment press.

BAGASON. A taste of stardom.

Special case

Bernadette makes it clear, though, that "Wish Ko Lang" has not evolved into a talent search.

Dexter's a special case, but just like the program's other "wishers," the aspiring singer has an interesting story to tell.

The Bagasons are a poor family. Dexter's dad is a security guard and his mom works in a factory, but they have a hard time making both ends meet, so Dexter has had to take on odd jobs to help his parents and finance his college education (he's a second-year BS Management student at Columban College and a sales representative in a telecom center).

After a year of hosting "Wish Ka Lang," Bernadette has learned to appreciate her family more. She has also become more compassionate with the needy. In the future, she plans to join an NGO and set up a foundation. She also wishes that the doors the show has opened for Dexter will help him succeed as a singer.

Triple treat from Regine Velasquez

From page C3

remains basically the same, except for the grand prize, which will now include a house and lot in addition to the P1 million bonanza. The weekly search starts tonight at 6 after "Click."

Auditions

As early as March this year, the organizers started conducting auditions at SM malls, attracting some 600 wannabes. That number was further trimmed down to 30. Each show will now have only three contestants vying for a weekly prize of P50,000. Three weekly winners will vie for the monthly pot of P100,000 and 10 monthly winners will go on to the grand finals next year.

'Finding Nemo' tops US box-office anew

From page C1

'Bruce Almighty'

3. "Bruce Almighty," Universal, $14,238,315, 3,477 locations, $4,095 average, $193,818,135, four weeks.

4. "Rugrats Go Wild," Paramount, $11,556,869, 3,041 locations, $3,800 average, $11,556,869, one week.

5. "Hollywood Homicide," Sony, $11,112,632, 2,840 locations, $3,913 average, $11,112,632, one week.

6. "Dumb and Dumberer: When Harry Met Lloyd," New Line, $10,845,064, 2,609 locations, $4,157 average, $10,845,064, one week.

7. "The Italian Job," Paramount, $9,609,425, 2,697 locations, $3,563 average, $55,403,975, three weeks.

8. "The Matrix Reloaded," Warner Bros., $5,745,465, 2,350 locations, $2,445 average, $257,486,680, five weeks.

9. "Daddy Day Care," Sony, $2,204,402, 1,982 locations, $1,112 average, $92,325,737, six weeks.

10. "X2: X-Men United," Fox, $1,740,529, 1,316 locations, $1,323 average, $207,305,598, seven weeks.

11. "Wrong Turn," Fox, $1,317,972, 1,074 locations, $1,227 average, $12,381,877, three weeks.

12. "Bend It Like Beckham," Fox Searchlight, $801,301, 387 locations, $2,071 average, $21,746,484, 14 weeks.

'The In-Laws'

13. "The In-Laws," Warner Bros., $677,377, 921 locations, $735 average, $19,401,817, four weeks.

14. "Down With Love," Fox, $352,467, 383 locations, $920 average, $19,561,342, six weeks.

15. "Holes," Disney, $345,101, 401 locations, $861 average, $63,798,143, nine weeks.

16. "Spellbound," ThinkFilm, $323,211, 84 locations, $3,848 average, $1,622,911, seven weeks.

17. "Winged Migration," Sony Pictures Classics, $322,961, 69 locations, $4,681 average, $2,966,043, nine weeks.

18. "A Mighty Wind," Warner Bros., $309,318, 245 locations, $1,263 average, $16,644,788, nine weeks.

19. "L'auberge Espagnole," Fox Searchlight, $248,348, 92 locations, $2,699 average, $1,296,662, five weeks.

20. "Ghosts of the Abyss," Disney, $232,050, 53 locations, $4,378 average, $11,359,384, 10 weeks. *AP*

‘Digital LG Quiz’ sets high standard

By Nestor U. Torre

NOW on its fourth year, the “Digital LG Quiz” show on Channel 7 (Sundays, 9 a.m.) has set a high standard for student quiz programs on local TV. In the past, such shows tended to be too academic and technologically unsavvy to appeal in a strong way to young viewers.

Combination

In only a few years, however, the “Digital LG Quiz” program has caught the fancy of high school students all over the country with its combination of big prizes, dynamic approach to education, high-tech visuals and friendly hosts (Paolo Bediones and Regine Tolentino).

These elements have served to make students enjoy studying, and regard their studies as a part of life, rather than a boring activity apart from it. This change is the show’s major claim to fame.

But this new perspective didn’t happen automatically. It’s the result of a great deal of thought, analysis and planning on the part of the show’s sponsor, LG Collins Electronics Manila, and its production team from Alta Productions, GMA-7’s sister company.

Expertise

Since the sponsor manufactures TV sets and other entertainment and media machines, the company has a high-tech orientation and expertise. It also values education, so it was logical to think of boosting its products not with the usual entertainment format, but with a TV quiz show for high school students.

The Alta Productions team then took change of translating that significant vision into a weekly show that young viewers could make an important highlight of their viewing and learning week.

Satisfaction

At the helm are executive producer JB Bautista and director Pat Perez, who find great satisfaction in spearheading the production of a show that has had a positive impact on hundreds of thousands of students all over the country.

Together with head writer Bong Barrameda and co-writer Mon Lorenzo, they conceptualize and finalize questions, segments and production approaches like “Password,” “Picture Puzzle,” “Think-Tac-Toe,” “Blockbusters” and “Megabytes.”

More dynamic

As for Paolo and Regine, they not only keep the show interesting, but also make it more dynamic and youth-friendly. They motivate contestants to do their best, to answer questions in a logical way, and to inspire young viewers to similarly love studying, even if prizes aren't involved.

The show has been able to sustain its popularity through the years because it keeps its questions topical and relevant to young viewers' interests and concerns. Some segments are fine-tuned further to iron out kinks, and to keep abreast of new technological developments and production approaches.

BEDIONES AND TOLENTINO. Motivate contestants to do their best.

Authentic Chinese food at West Lake

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

RICHARD Tansiongkun remembers that, when he was only eight years old, he was already exposed to good Chinese food, and was even preparing meals for his family.

Kiosks

He started operating food kiosks in malls, calling them West Lake Authentic Chinese Food. Richard named his kiosks West Lake after an idyllic resort in Hangzhou, China.

He started with basic Chinese takeout in 1995, but soon expanded the menu and decided to open bigger places.

Richard now operates West Lake at Eastwood City, which seats 45 inside and 60 on the sidewalk, while West Lake at Global City has attracted a very upscale crowd.

Steady crowd

The place has been attracting a steady crowd because of its delectable Cantonese-inspired food. Dumplings are all made by hand. They also serve flavorful dishes like fish fillet with tofu and black bean sauce, Szechwan eggplant, Hainanese chicken, West Lake fried chicken, salt and pepper pork chops, and fried rice varieties. The very creative Richard serves Hainanese chicken fried rice, which you can’t find in other restaurants.

Within the year, Richard hopes to open another branch, and is open for franchising for kiosks.

For inquires, call 815-4652 for West Lake Global City; 421-9981 to 82 for West Lake Eastwood, and for franchising call 634-2987 and 631-0183.

Humidity terminator

My studio now carries the Eureka Auto Drybox—the humidity terminator for camera equipment. The Auto Drybox scientifically prevents all forms of humidity damage. E-mail: mn_photocom@i-manila.com.ph or call: 522-5189 or 522-1905.

WEST Lake prides itself on its delectable dumplings.

TANSIONGKUN. His culinary creations click with diners.

Wildlife is best left untamed on the Jeff and Steve shows

By Mona Gonzalez

“ALL creatures, whether big or small, have a place on earth, and often taste delicious,” said Jeff Corwin, host of the Animal Planet program, “The Jeff Corwin Experience.” The observation starts out beautifully, but the ending takes us aback. After all, if a creature has a place on this earth, why even think about how it tastes?

Food chain

But Jeff, like Steve Irwin (host of “Crocodile Hunter” and “The Croc Files”) loves and respects wild animals. He accepts the reality that they are a part of the food chain. And for them, that need not be a bad thing.

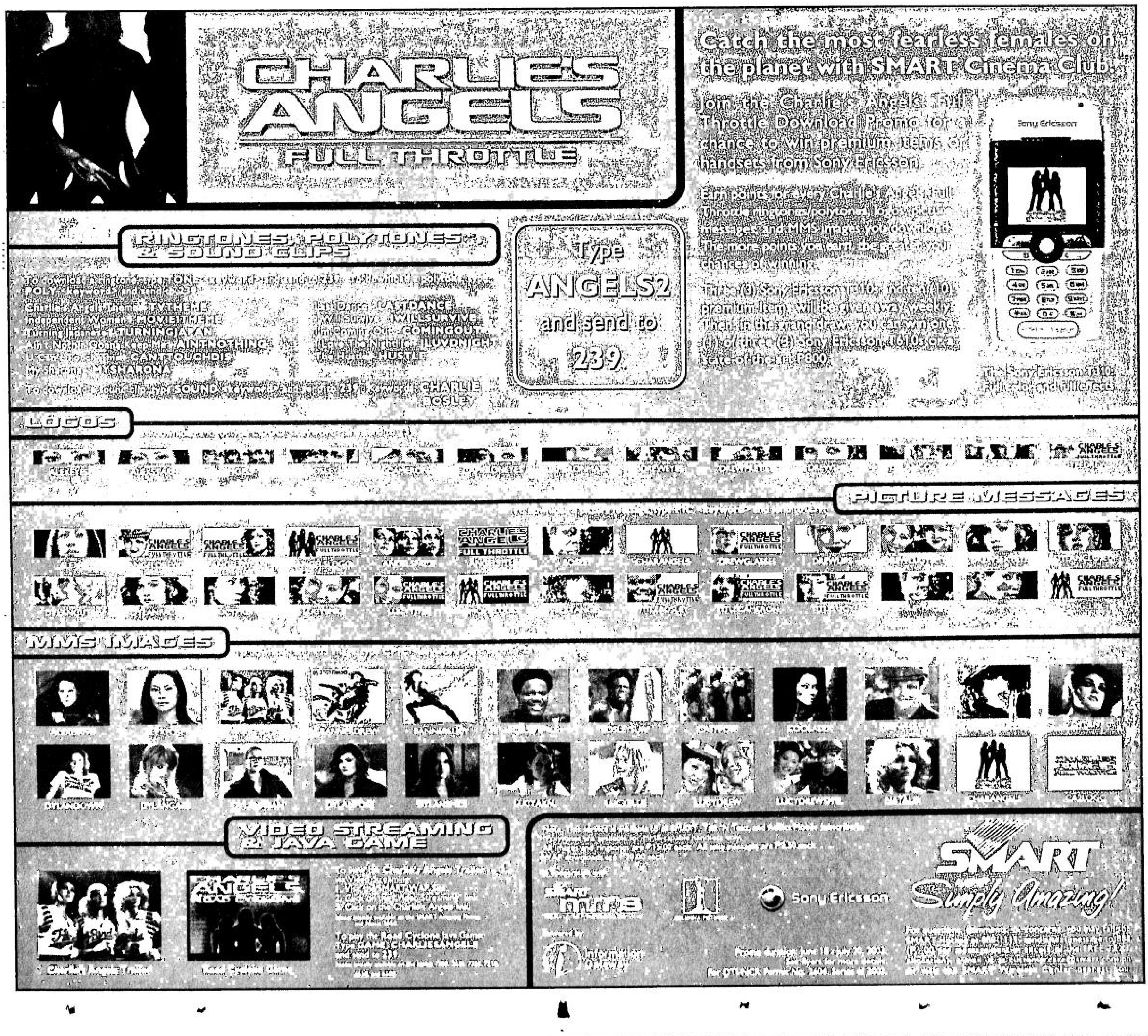
What about Steve Irwin? He owns The Australia Zoo in Beerwah, Queensland, and hosts programs with his wife, Terri. Once, he, his wife and their five-year-old daughter Bindi even guested on the “Oprah” show (Bindi came in with a big smile on her face—and a large cobra wrapped around her neck.)

Thoughtful

How do the Jeff and Steve shows compare? First, Jeff's show is more thoughtful, deliberate and intellectual. It appeals to an audience that may already have a degree of knowledge and interest in wild animals.

Steve's show has more action, fun, passion and thrills. It's always neat watching Steve play

WILDLIFE/ C7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Larry King writes about the power of prayer

By Ronald G. Mangubat

KING. Self-professed agnostic.

THE KING of the interview is a self-professed agnostic who once claimed he knew nothing about prayers. But in 1997, during a lunch date with his daughter Chaia, CNN's Larry King got an idea to write his ninth book when his daughter posed this challenge: "You're always having conversations with powerful people, so why not ask them about their prayers?"

Trip

Since then, King collaborated with Rabbi Irwin Katsof and went on a trip to gather hundreds of interviews with the world's most prominent people.

The result is a 254-page book entitled "Powerful Prayers" (published by Renaissance Books). It is an exploration of the intimate prayers of famous personalities.

This is the kind of book that one would like to read slowly, since it contains a lot of deep and provocative insights on man's worshiping spirit.

Larry King's agnostic stand on the issue of spirituality becomes the fulcrum of this exploration. He engages in debates with rabbi Katsof, discusses his skepticism with his interviewees and asks questions that strong believers wouldn't ask.

Questions like "Is God also in charge of traffic lights?," "Have you ever prayed for a parking spot?" and "Does God listen to the prayers of leaders more than those of ordinary people?" were probed candidly.

Except for former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher who refused to discuss her prayers because she regarded them as a personal matter, personalities like the Dalai Lama, Muhammed Ali, Barbara Bush, Deepak Chopra, Goldie Hawn, Steven Seagal, Rene Russo, Kenny Rogers, Suzanne Somers, and Lou Diamond Phillips openly shared their feelings, ideas, beliefs and convictions on why, where, and how they pray.

Almost all of the celebrities who conversed with King claimed that, regardless of their religious affiliations, their lives were altered through sincere prayer.

Tragedies

In the chapters "End of the Rope," "In Sickness and in Health" and "Prayer and War," King and Katsof talked to people whose lives had been shaken by tragedies, people who realized that one of the ways God talks to us is through pain. As Christian writer C.S. Lewis says: "Pain is God's megaphone to wake up a deaf world."

But aside from mouthing a litany of woes and requests, King's conversations reveal that prayer is also an integration of man's highest faculties, with which people's intellectual humility, moral obligation and sense of gratitude are developed.

Why are prayers important today? Theologians, doctors and politicians who talked with King observe that, in these uncertain times, there is a need to rethink the nature of consciousness.

Soldier

'Not all of those interviewed were strong believers. There was a soldier who initiated a prayer boycott when he witnessed the horrors of the Vietnam war; a writer who finds it very hard to accept why God needs to be praised, and King himself, who throughout the book acted as a devil's advocate of sorts and continuously asked: why pray at all?

After his odyssey, the intriguing question is: was Larry King able to convince himself to pray? It will take thoughtful contemplation to discern King's answer!

Bong's 'bangus' products are truly delightful

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

WHEN my brother Bong and I lived together as bachelors, we had different quirks about food. Most of the time, I would have lunch out and skip dinner, or have my meals at the Hyatt, where I spent many nights at Calesa Bar with The Manila Band. Being the manager of the group, I had free meals at the coffee shop.

Meals

On the other hand, Bong had lunch everywhere and for dinner, he always had his meals at home. One time, when he got tipsy, he even ate the heated dog food meant for our German Shepherd, Yola! The dog got sick the next day.

One thing about Bong: if he liked something, he had it for months, and sometimes years! I remember when he tripped on pork chops, *adobong kangkong* and rice for about two years, until he finally realized all that fat wasn't healthy. He then shifted to steamed boneless *bangus* and pickled *kangkong* with steamed rice, which he ate almost everyday.

A few months ago, Bong decided to pack his *bangus* and offer it to the public. Daza Delights products were first offered to friends. Today, the business has become so big that Bong devotes all his time to it.

The very first item was boneless Bangus Viscaina, with the fish coming from General Santos.The steamed boneless *bangus* is topped with a sauce of olive oil, garlic, tomato sauce, red bell peppers, olives and an assortment of spices. The result is a healthy, nutritious and delicious, guilt-free meal.

Freshness

The *bangus* is frozen and vacuumed-packed to seal in its freshness. All it needs is to be heated in the microwave for about two minutes, and with rice or bread, it's a complete meal. The recipe for the sauce was formulated by our mom Nora. It comes in two versions, regular and spicy.

After the Viscaina came the Tocho sauce in both regular and spicy, and the Authentic Thai Curry sauce over the bangus, which is my contribution to Bong's new venture.

I prefer the spicy version. I give it to friends when I go abroad, and they love it. One thing I wonder, though, is how Bong will make money on this because he gives away so many samples.

Daza's Delights products are available at Rustans, Robinsons, Shopwise, Cash and Carry, Uni Mart, Landmark, Makati Supermart and Shoppersville in Katipunan. Bong is looking for distributors in Cebu, Davao, Cagayan De Oro, Bacolod and London. Call his office at Maxinter 817-4561, 815-2036 and ask for Janet or Tess.

Happy eating!

Enchanting day

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

That was one enchanting weekend we had at Enchanted Kingdom, wasn't it? I couldn't recall a more fascinating day and I feel blessed to have had the chance to share it with the whole family.

I've gone to several world-class theme parks abroad and I was enthralled by the amazing array of wonders that defied reality.

Treats

But I can truly say that, although the treats at Enchanted Kingdom were quite limited, they were nonetheless just as spectacular.

EK has seven major park sites. First, there's Portabello: This zone features a dizzying, giant swing ride—the Flying Fiesta. Riders' enjoyment of this ride can be measured by the decibels reached by their shrieks.

One of the park's newest and largest attractions, the Rio Grande Rapids, is a wet-and-wild adventure that you thoroughly enjoyed, even though it drenched you down to your undies. I lost count of the number of times you went back for more.

Thrill

You no longer had the time to enjoy one other thrill at Portabello, the Paintball, where you and your cousins could have engaged each other in a ferocious battle with paint bombs as your weapons.

The second park site is the Spaceport, easily the most exciting with its 11-story-high Space Shuttle. I naturally wasn't able to muster enough courage to try it, but I saw how the country's first and only triple-loop coaster turned you upside down six times—and I marvelled at how you were able to keep your food in your tummy.

There's also the charming Victoria Park, which prides itself as the grand dame of carnivals—the grand carousel with its wooden stallions, elaborate carriages and colorful lights. This is the home of the Wizard, that lovable mascot who could pass himself off as Merlin's grandnephew.

Favorite zone

My favorite zone is Brooklyn, where can be found the Rialto motion simulator theater, which combines sight, sound and movement to make the viewer feel like he's in the movie he's watching. I enjoyed "The 7th Portal," the ride-simulation film version of the popular online animated series created by the legendary Stan Lee.

I didn't go to the 4D Discovery theater, which featured "Escape from Bane Manor." I was warned it was too scary for me, because I absolutely detest rodents. But when you told me it was a delight to the senses and was a hundred times more exciting than the Rialto show, I regretted not having had the gumption for it.

Backdrop

There's also the Jungle Outpost set against the backdrop of the Amazon. This is the zone you love most, with its exciting, breathtaking, spine-tingling Jungle Log Jam, and the tranquil Swan Lake. The boys naturally enjoyed the Midway Boardwalk, patterned after Coney Island. This zone features the most number of rides—Anchors Away, Dodgem, Condor, Roller Skater, Up, Up & Away, Bump N Splash and the classic Wheel of Fate.

What's particularly fun about EK, Clara, is the fact that it has a place for everybody in the family. There's a special area for kids—Boulderville, a prehistoric cartoon zone designed to capture the imagination of every child. There are kiddie rides like Bumbling Boulders, Air Pterodactyl, Stone Eggs, and Dinosoarus. Play facilities like Rock Quarry and Petreefied House are guaranteed to offer innumerable delights.

And, of course, Enchanted Kingdom would not be complete without its fireworks display, a fitting spectacle to cap the enchanting day we all had.

Family

But, what I found truly exciting about our whole day at EK was seeing us as one, big, happy, ordinary family. We should do this more often—just being ourselves, laughing our hearts out, enjoying the gift of each other's company, sharing a hotdog or chicken leg, just being—family!

It was a magical day, and I thank Enchanted Kingdom for it. As your dad said, "*Hinilo tayo, binasa tayo, ibinagsak tayo, tinakot tayo, pinaikot-ikot tayo, pinagod tayo—pero masayang-masaya tayo!*"

That pretty much sums up what Enchanted Kingdom is all about.

Chin Chin on 'Inday, Heart to Heart'

TIME Magazine hailed her as one of the heroes of 2003. Chin Chin Gutierrez shares her joy as well as her convictions about the environment and Mother Earth tomorrow when she guests on "Inday, Heart to Heart," 10:30-11:30 a.m, GMA-7. Do watch and find out why we all have to give what we can for the environment.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JUNE 21 - JUNE 27

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Wildlife is best left untamed . . .

From page C5

roughly with crocodiles, stomping the ground near the edge of their pond to coerce them to spring up—jaws open—and snap at him. He does this to preserve these zoo crocs' predator instincts. He doesn't mind using himself as bait!

Steve's shows are an "introductory course" for kids and the under-initiated on wild animals, their habitats, habits, how they protect themselves, and what they like to do.

Contrast

Here's another contrast—Steve uses simple words that are easy to understand and visualize. He'll ecstatically exclaim over and over, "Look at her. Isn't she beautiful?" Then he'll kiss the head of a lizard!

Jeff Corwin will use words you'd never get Steve to spout, like "iridescent"; "voracious predators," "amphibians," "hibernating" and "winter breeders."

Jeff's show is more scientific. He'll feature ongoing research conducted by educational institutions. Sometimes, he's part of the experiment.

Transmitter

Once, he swallowed a transmitter which beeped inside him for days (even after three glasses of lemonade). Then he traveled cross-country to find an amphibian that had a similar transmitter! *(To be concluded)*

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ADAM SANDLER EMILY WATSON

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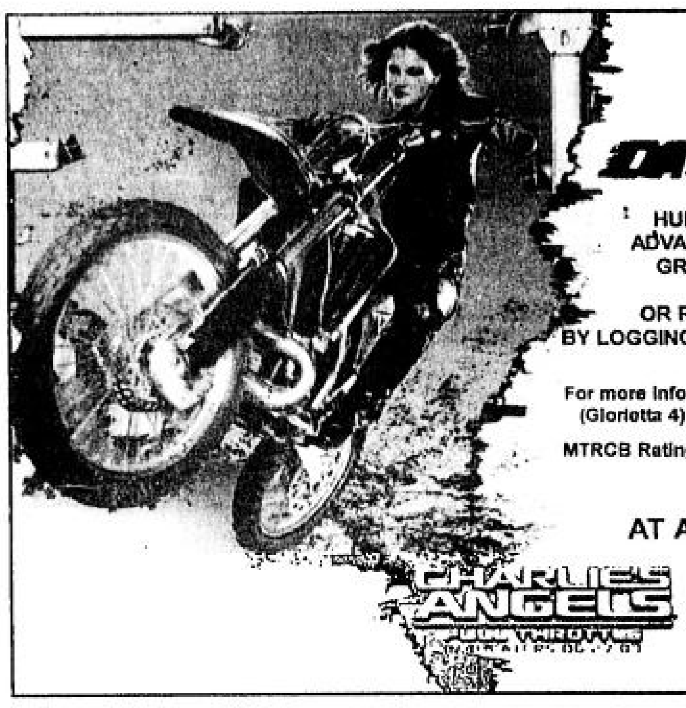

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GREENBELT 1
ArtFilm, Greenbelt 1: Punchdrunk Love (Adam Sandler) on June 18 to July 1
Coffee club discussion: June 18, 7pm at Cinema 2, Greenbelt 1
Watch the series of MONOLOGUES with Epi Quizon, Angel Aquino and Pinky Amador and piece these stories together.
GREENBELT 1 **Monologues and MAGIC** June 18, 7 pm at the Café Row June 25, 7 pm at DeliFrance Area,
GREENBELT 2 **Monologues and SERENADES** July 2, 7 pm
GREENBELT 3 **Monologues and THEATER DUETS** July 3, 7 pm
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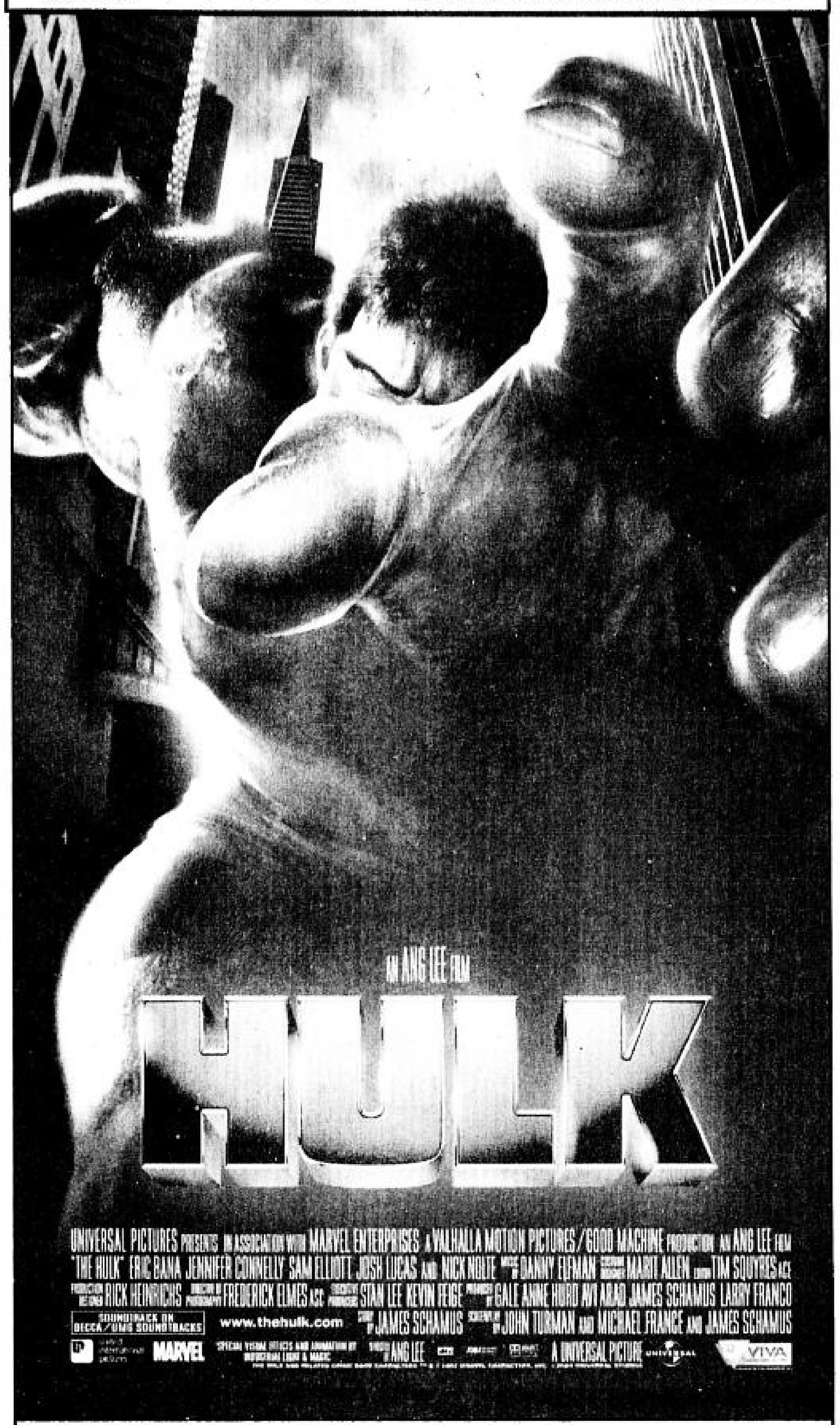

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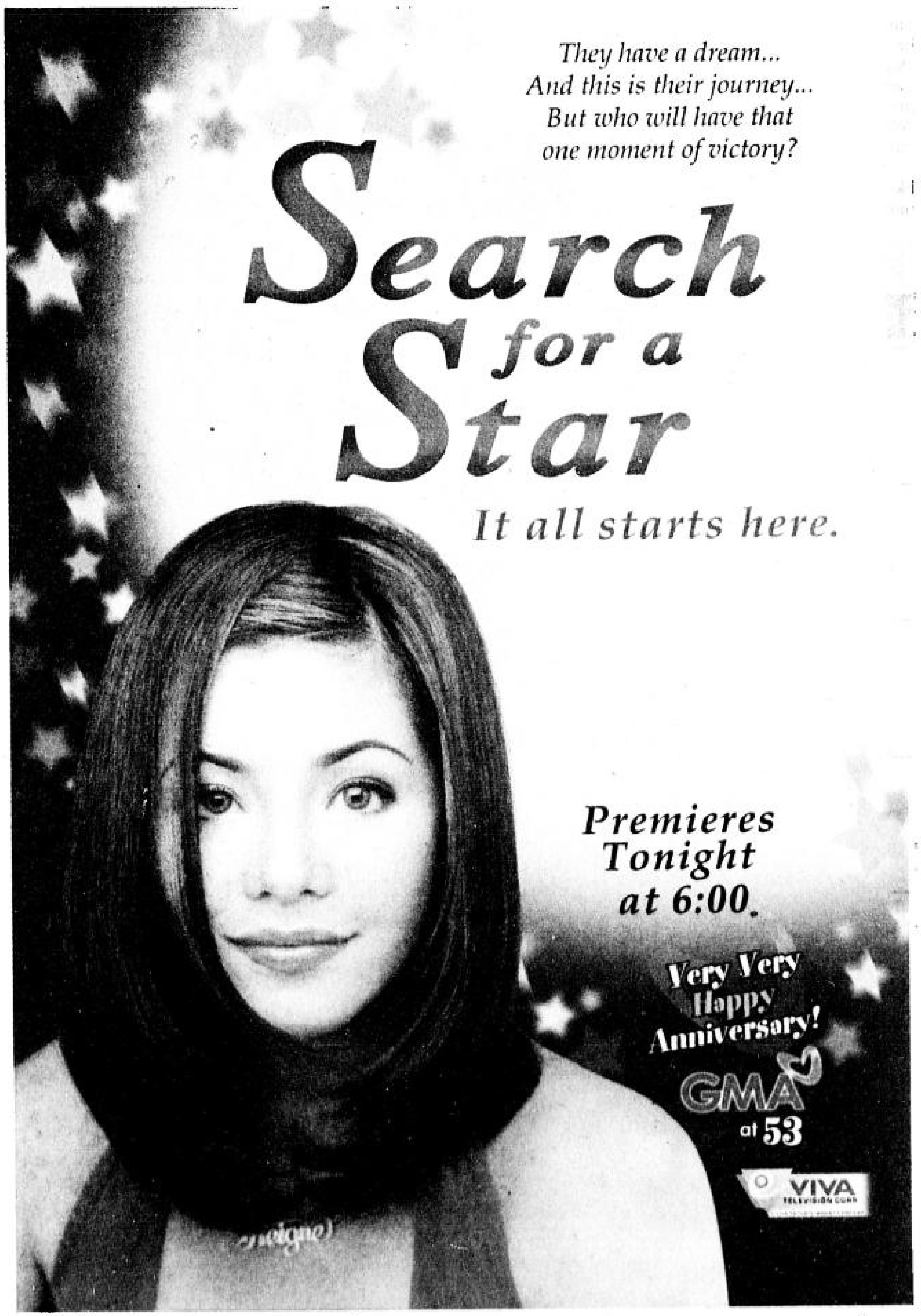

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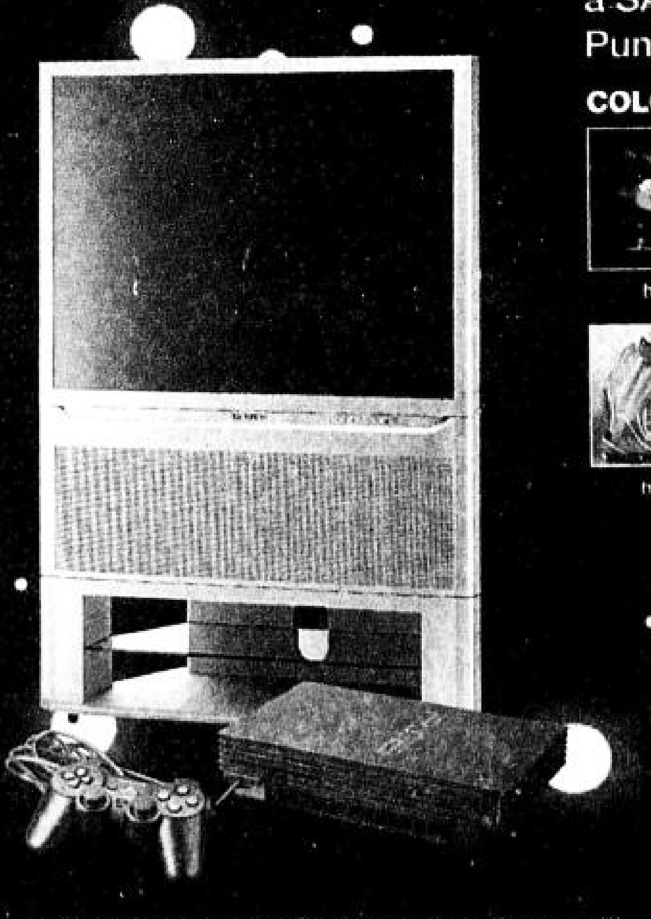

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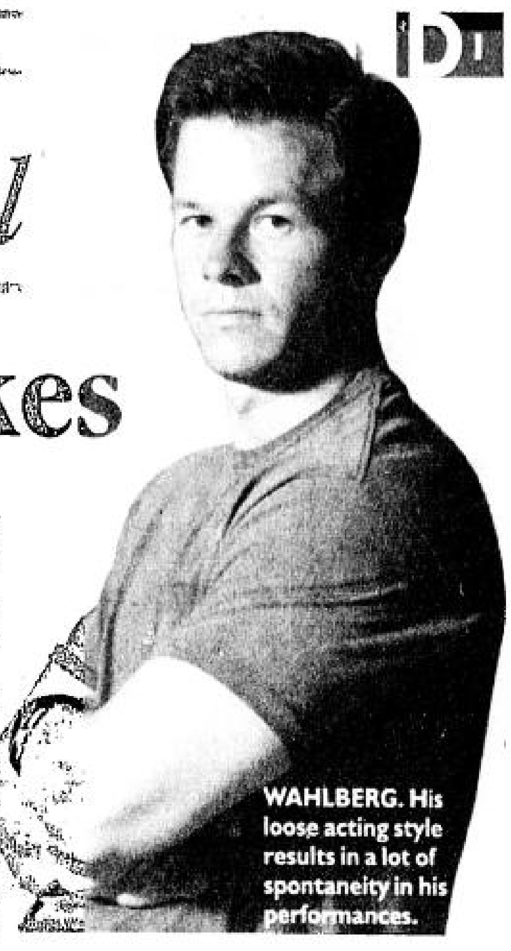
Mark Wahlberg returns to remakes



WAHLBERG. His loose acting style results in a lot of spontaneity in his performances.

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—If Mark Wahlberg could do it all over again, would he appear in so many movie remakes?

Criticism

The answer is a qualified yes. Although criticism of his remakes has sometimes been harsh, Wahlberg said the roles allowed him to work with some of his favorite directors.

"In a perfect world it would be something original and a part I haven't played before. You know, get to stretch as someone else," he said.

"I always say I revisit familiar territory as far as the parts that I play, and you know it's all kind of the same stories. There's only seven or eight stories to tell, going back to Shakespeare. We just try to find new and original ways to do it," said Wahlberg, who turned 32 on June 5.

In his third retelling of a classic film in as many years, the former rapper has taken over the driver's seat from Michael Caine for an update of the 1969 car-chase caper "The Italian Job."

In 2001, Wahlberg supplanted Charlton Heston's simian-hating spaceman in director Tim Burton's remake of "Planet of the Apes."

Sneaky stranger

And last year, Wahlberg slipped into Cary Grant's sneaky stranger from 1963's "Charade," redone as filmmaker Jonathan Demme's "The Truth About Charlie."

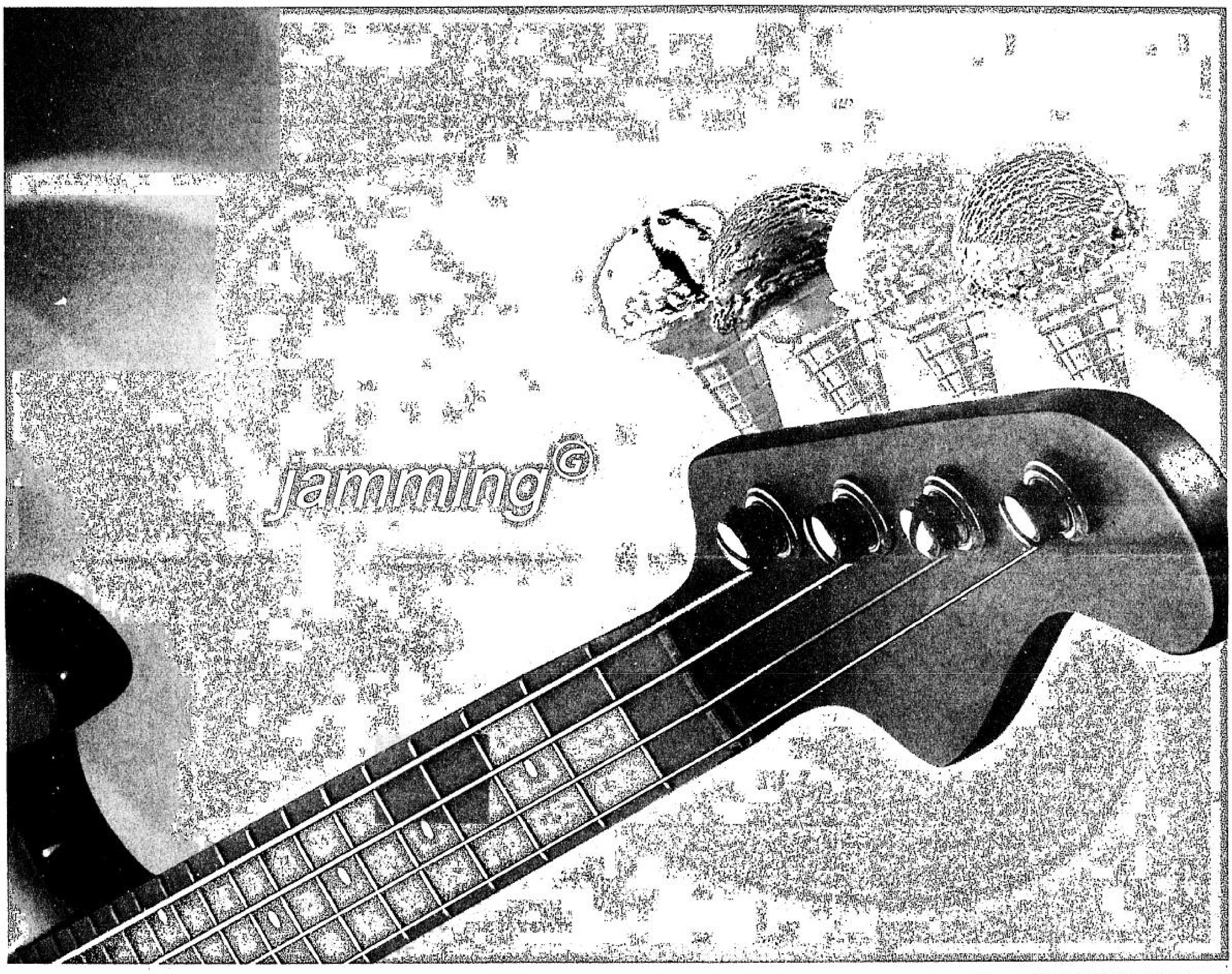
Director F. Gary Gray acknowledged the pressure of living up to the original version of "The Italian Job." Caine played the ringleader of a plan to swipe a load of gold by staging a massive traffic jam and then escape in tiny Mini Cooper cars.

The 1969 film remains a critical and cult favorite in Europe. Gray described it as "their equivalent of our 'Godfather.'"

The original is lesser known in the United States, which Wahlberg said was key to his involvement. "If this movie had been popular here, I would have had a really tough time doing it."

The new version takes place mainly in California. The Minis are used in a

MARK/ D2



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AUDIENCE of medical staffers, patients and support group members enjoys performers' madcap skits and inspiring songs.

Enter H.O.P.E. troupe performs at Medical City

By Nestor U. Torre

OUR little troupe of Entertainers for H.O.P.E. was all keyed up last June 14 for our first benefit performance for the We Care support group at Medical City's Department of Psychiatry.

Venue

Arriving with our bags of costumes and props, we started rehearsing at eight in the morning at the hospital's boardroom, the venue of We Care's third anniversary celebration and our one-hour show.

Eight a.m. is an unnaturally early hour for theater people and night owls like us, but we didn't mind making an exception in this instance, because we wanted to come up with a really good show, to let our prospective audience of patients, support group members and medical personnel know how eager we were to lift their spirits.

At 10:30 a.m., as scheduled, we were ready to begin. Andy Bais, Sheila Asuncion and Joel Villaflor were on first, in a comedy-musical skit about a loser who fell in love with a beauty queen. Right from the start, the audience reacted loudly to the jokes, rocking the hall with laughter.

And, when Andy and Sheila started singing, the audience was even more impressed. Andy and Sheila had already scored as comedians, and now here they were, singing beautifully and with great feeling!

As a medical staffer exclaimed to us after the show, "We didn't know that our comedy-musical talents were this good!" And he promised himself to watch our full-length musical productions in the future.

Duet

But that was just for starters. Rito Asilo and Ana Feleo next bowled the audience over with their duet, as well as their comedic skills, And then it was Joel's turn to sing a solo number.

When we sequence musical numbers for a show, we make it a point not to have Joel sing at the start, because everything else might become anti-climactic. Simply put, Joel has one of the best undiscovered tenor voices in the country, and when he sings—even without a microphone—people perk up and really listen.

Well, that's exactly what happened last Saturday, and the audience applauded Joel's solo performance with extra vigor.

FIRST row, from left: performers Rito Asilo, Ana Feleo, Sheila Asuncion, Dr. Dulce Sahagun, Dr. Mel Batar, Andy Bais and Joel Villaflor. Others in photo are members of Medical City's We Care support group.

Skits

The rest of the hour-long performance similarly went well, as the audience laughed during the skits and reacted with delight to the musical numbers. When the show was over, the cast was given a long ovation, and the big smiles on their faces showed that they were as delighted as the audience over how well the morning performance had gone.

The audience's applause was good enough for the Entertainers for H.O.P.E. talents—but now it was the turn of We Care to surprise and delight them:

Taking its cue from "Enter H.O.P.E.'s" goal of giving a psychic boost to people in hospitals, orphanages, prisons, educational institutions and etc. (H.O.P.E.), We Care had, on its own initiative, spent the past couple of weeks collecting toys for the wards of the first orphanage we would perform for.

Smiles

The support group presented us with a big box of really wonderful toys that should elicit wide, beaming smiles from the orphans at our next "Enter H.O.P.E." performance.

This really moved us, because it vivified one of our heretofore "secret" reasons for putting up Entertainers for H.O.P.E. in the first place: Since money would not be the point of our group, we wanted to prove that it could be sustained on people's goodness alone. Thus, we hoped that we would merely provide the catalyst for that basic goodness to assert itself, and that the groups we would be performing for would sequentially end up helping each other, without our telling them to do so.

That's exactly what's happened with We Care's donation of toys for the orphans at our next performance, and we're so happy that our faith in the basic goodness of people (despite all the "evidence" to the contrary today) was affirmed by We Care on our very first "Enter H.O.P.E." performance.

Committed

Finally, we would like to thank the show's "unseen hero," production associate Ray Manalo, who handles music, sound and props, for being as committed to our troupe as our performers are. The audience doesn't even notice Ray, but that's fine with him, because he gets a lot of psychic satisfaction from being part of a troupe that is trying to enable *hope* to *enter* into the lives of people who need it.

If you want "Enter H.O.P.E." to perform its mirthful skits and spirits-boosting songs for your group, all you have to do is call Happy at 713-9323 and 0919-2065424. We'll be more than happy to brighten up your day with laughter, song—and hope.

Eric Bana is Australia's next big export to Hollywood

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

OUR Q and A this week:

From Geri Chua, **"I've seen the trailer of 'The Hulk' but haven't read much about its star. I was pleasantly surprised to find out that Eric Bana was the lead in one of my favorite movies, 'Black Hawk Down.' Who is he and how did he get the role?"**

BANA. As talented as he is tall (6'4").

Unique combination

"The Hulk" director Ang Lee ("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"; "The Ice Storm") describes his lead star, Eric Bana, as a "fresh face with a unique combination of great strength and the most soulful eyes." But Bana couldn't really be more different than his fellow Aussie imports (Mel Gibson, Russell Crowe and Hugh Jackman). Apart from his leading-man looks and towering figure (he is 6'4"!), Eric actually started out as a comedian before he earned accolades as an actor in Australia.

Born Eric Banadinovich to a Croatian father and German mother, the 34-year-old actor braces himself for the release of "The Hulk" this week. Though little known in America, Eric is a household name in Australia where, for the last decade, he was a popular comedian—a stark contrast to the dark, brooding characters that are offered to him in Hollywood.

Ascent to fame

His ascent to fame started while he was working as a barman in Melbourne's Castle Hotel when he caved in to peer pressure for a spot in a stand-up comedy act. Since then, it was one performance after another.

Two years later, Bana took his smart wit to the small screen as writer and performer in the top-rated comedy program, "Full Frontal," which resulted in "The Eric Bana Show Live." That year, he was voted Australia's "Most Popular Comedy Performer" at the Logies (Australia's version of "The Emmys"). In the same year (1997), he made his feature film debut, playing support, as a wacky kickboxing consultant in "The Castle."

Shedding his boy-next-door image, Bana gained 30 pounds, shaved his head, covered his entire body with tattoos and transformed himself into the notoriously charismatic serial killer, "Chopper" (whose memoirs became a bestseller, making the author a cult figure).

He earned praise for his skillful, compelling portrayal and his efforts paid off by when he won the Best Actor plums at the Australian Oscars, the Australian Film Critics Circle and the Stockholm filmfest.

When "Chopper" was screened at the Toronto filmfest, director Ridley Scott took notice of its star and offered Bana the role of Sgt. Hoot Gibson in the film, "Black Hawk Down" (2001).

Scientist

The film was nominated for Best Picture at the Oscars, and Marvel Studios president Avi Arad sent Bana a plane ticket to New York to audition for "The Hulk," Universal's $150 million film on the comics superhero.

Signing up for superhero duty, Bana was offered an initial seven-figure paycheck with optional deals for two sequels (including substantial salary raises for each installment).

Next, you will hear Eric's voice in Disney-Pixar's latest animated blockbuster, "Finding Nemo," as the voice of the hammerhead, Anchor.

Eric will also be seen in Bill Bennett's "The Nugget," a true-to-life look at how instant wealth suddenly changes the lives of three working-class men.

The new star is currently shooting Wolfgang Petersen's film adaptation of "Troy," where he is cast as Hector (the prince of Troy), who abducts the enchantingly beautiful Helen from her husband Menelaeus. Eric stars with Brad Pitt as Achilles, Orlando Bloom ("The Lord of the Ring's" Legolas) as Paris, and Sean Bean as Odysseus, among others.

Script

Eric is currently working on a script for a John Lennon biopic, which he describes as "my Raging Bull." The film focuses on the last 10 years of Lennon's life, and is awaiting the nod of the Lennon estate in Liverpool.

Trivia: Eric is married to Rebecca Gleeson, with whom he has two children.

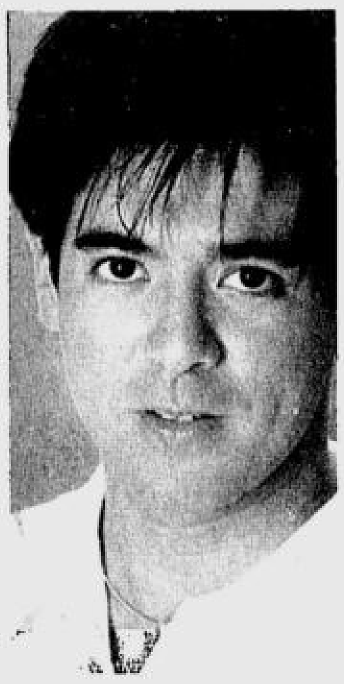
He is thrilled to work with director Ang Lee, whose tense drama, "Ice Storm," is among his favorite films.

Universal, "The Hulk's" marketing and production arm, along with Vivendi, is currently investigating footage of the film that first appeared a couple of weeks ago (way before its June 20 premiere) through Internet Relay Chat, a program that lets users transfer files at high speeds. (So, as you can see, pirated copies can come from within production companies. VRB, take note!)

Sitcom telecasts anniversary un-special

By Noelani Torre

"WHATEVER" is the key word in describing the ABS-CBN sitcom "OK, Fine! Whatever." As this month marks its first anniversary, we thought we'd take a look at one of its "special" anniversary shows.



MUHLACH. Shares lead credits with Edu Manzano and Bayani Agbayani.

Elements

It had all the elements of whatever-ness—a loosely-adhered-to plotline, actors jumping in and out of character, discarding lines and adlibbing all over the place, etc.

Now, these aren't bad per se—as long as they're done right. Impromptu performances have their own charm, and sometimes audiences find actors dropping their facade and addressing them directly more appealing than carefully rehearsed scenes.

Still, it has to be done right. After all, timing is essential to the effectiveness of comedy. And in "OK, Fine! Whatever," good timing was lacking.

We're not even sure whether they actually took it into consideration. The show was more or less composed of several long-running jokes and gags that were either over-extended or died premature, punchlineless deaths.

Regulars

Perhaps the reason for this is because most of the cast members aren't really comedians. Regulars include Aga Muhlach, Edu Manzano, Gloria Romero, Rica Peralejo and Bayani Agbayani—and only the last professes to be a natural funnyman. Of course, you don't need to be a comedian to do well in a sitcom, but as "OK, Fine! Whatever" requires its actors to more or less be themselves, a storehouse of witty quips and a knack for knowing when to drop them are basic requirements.

So, what was special about the anniversary show we watched? Well, not much. The whatever-ness we mentioned is not confined to anniversary specials, it's a trademark. The only thing different was the presence of guest stars Regine Velasquez, Sharon Cuneta and Bernard Palanca.

Running gag

Velasquez was present for practically the entire episode—she played a tricycle driver whose vehicle is crashed by Bayani, Aga's twin brother in the show (running gag number one). At first she's very tomboyish—baseball cap, loose clothing, *siga* attitude. But then she gets a crush on Aga Muhlach and the next time we see her, she's in a filmy, high-heeled, more "girly" ensemble—and Aga realizes that, oh, she's pretty *pala*. It's a story we've all heard before.

Regine was trying hard not to laugh most of the time, but it was OK, as she was a guest, anyway. What we found harder to accept was the constant tittering from the regulars. They just couldn't stop laughing at their own jokes. That sort of thing can be funny, but after an hour, it gets tiresome.

And, of course, Regine had

SITCOM/ D3

Mark Wahlberg returns to remakes

From page D1

sewer pipe chase that empties into the Los Angeles river. Edward Norton co-stars as a thief who betrays Wahlberg's crew and steals their stolen loot.

While many youthful fans of Wahlberg's movies may not have seen the original films, the reverse can also be true. When Heston, then 76, was asked two years ago about the remake of 1968's "Planet of the Apes," he said he'd never seen any of Wahlberg's work.

Heston, whose signature role in 1959's "Ben-Hur" was a remake of a remake—there were two silent movies, in 1925 and 1907—said Wahlberg did not seek any advice from him.

"He did not, and I would be surprised if he did," Heston said, "because I wouldn't."

Instinct

Gray said Wahlberg has a loose acting style that separates him from his predecessors. "He does go by instinct, and that's where I think you get a lot of spontaneity," the director said.

Wahlberg, the youngest of nine children was known in the late 1980s as the younger brother of New Kids on the Block singer Donnie Wahlberg. Mark dropped out of high school, and spent 45 days in jail for assault and battery at age 16, before becoming a star in 1991 as rapper Marky Mark with the hit single "Good Vibrations."

With his group, the Funky Bunch, Wahlberg presented a thuggish, hyper-sexual image onstage, often stripping down to his boxers to display his muscled physique.

That won over a lot of female fans, as did subsequent underwear ads for Calvin Klein. But he found broader success by dumping the Marky Mark moniker and breaking into acting with films such as "Renaissance Man" (1994), "The Basketball Diaries" (1995) and "Fear" (1996).

While Wahlberg has sometimes received brutal criticism for redoing roles of iconic actors, critics have been impressed by his original work. He received high marks for playing a naive porn star in 1997's "Boogie Nights," a weary, gold-hunting American soldier in the 1999 war satire "Three Kings" and a doomed, lovelorn fisherman in 2000's "The Perfect Storm."

Bike-riding fireman

The actor also plans to lay off the remakes for a while. His next two projects are "I Love Huckabee's," in which he plays a bike-riding fireman, and an as-yet untitled psychological drama in

MARK/ D3

Stiffer penalties needed for erring TV hosts

By Nestor U. Torre

THE ONE-WEEK suspension recently imposed by ABS-CBN on "MTB" hosts Willie Revillame and John Estrada has made us think:

It's about time, because they really have gone overboard—but why only one week? Weren't they suspended for a longer time some years ago? As recidivists, they should receive stiffer penalties, so they will really change their ways, this second time around.

Positive spin

It's understandable why ABS-CBN is trying to put a positive spin on this latest embarrassment by saying that the decision to suspend Willie and John came from the network. But the decision was made only after the MTRCB, televiewers, legislators and the Philippine Alliance Against Pornography had already complained about the hosts' excesses.

What can be done to make sure that there's no *third* time around for the erring hosts? Stricter standards for on-camera conduct should be set by TV networks, especially for daytime and evening primetime shows. Even more importantly, they should be strictly enforced.

Excesses

Programs should be monitored for excesses, and when these are perceived, erring TV people should be penalized—*before* the public, legislators, watchdog groups and MTRCB speak up. Then, networks can more credibly maintain that they have voluntarily acted in accordance with the principle of enlightened and responsible self-regulation.

What about the erring hosts themselves—what will it take for them to stop prejudicing the right of young viewers and families to wholesome entertainment? Aside from suspensions and reprimands, a more comprehensive reorientation of TV talents is in order.

The plot thickens when some people fret that, rather than being held in check, some erring hosts may in fact be encouraged to come up with "spicier" comments and behavior, to jack up their shows' popularity. The TV networks' current "battle to the death" for top ratings bolsters this fear.

Solution

If there's any truth to it, then the problem is bigger than one involving individual program hosts—and the solution would consequently be that much more difficult to arrive at, and enforce.

It's also important not to focus exclusively on this single case, and to think that, once it is solved, everything will be fine. There are *many* instances of irresponsible behavior on the tube, which is one reason why some people think that it's a secret policy rather than an aberration.

So, all TV programs should be monitored, and all excesses addressed, to truly solve this problem, which is more pervasive than the networks admit, and clueless viewers realize.

Final consideration

That, in fact, is the final consideration: The situation wouldn't have deteriorated as much as it has if viewers were more aware of standards of decency on TV, and the right of minors and families to wholesome programming on TV.

This lack of awareness is the result of poor education and low personal standards. But the most significant factor of all is local viewers' unenlightened belief that TV is "just TV," and therefore isn't that important one way or the other as a conduit of either good or bad values.

Unfortunately, that breezily clueless attitude is all out of whack. But not many people realize that, which is why not enough viewers complain, and TV workers feel they can do anything on the small screen, with shameless impunity.

ESTRADA AND REVILLAME. They aren't the only culprits.

Mark Wahlberg ...

From page D2

which he plays a wounded soldier tormented by his doctors.

"I would definitely like to do something as original as possible every time," Wahlberg said.

Now Donnie Wahlberg is following in his kid brother's footsteps, starring in the NBC drama "Boomtown." The two had a falling out over money during their days as musicians, Mark Wahlberg said, but they've patched up the relationship. That has made them cautious about working together again, but they haven't completely ruled it out.

Wahlberg said he has mellowed from the frenetic Marky Mark—thanks mainly to the "therapeutic" work of movies and his passion for golf. "What was weird was I was always having recurring nightmares, and now I dream about golf," he said. "Like, hole-in-one."

Silent blessing

Wahlberg said he's also a devout Roman Catholic. During a dinner interview at the Polo Lounge in Beverly Hills, Wahlberg says a silent blessing over his red wine, tortilla soup and chicken pasta before digging in.

"I strayed away for a while, as a kid. Yeah, got into a lot of trouble. And like a lot of people in trouble I found God," he said. "But I didn't find God to get out of trouble and then forget about it."

Wahlberg is also set to become a daddy. He has a daughter due in August with his long-time girlfriend, model Rhea Durham, and said his days as a party boy have been tamed.

"You can only do it for so long," he said. "It wears off. I mean, I had a lot of fun. I dragged it out longer than most people." *AP*

Sitcom telecasts...

From page D2

to sing, so they had this MTV sort of scene where she sang to Aga. It was the generally pointless show's breather, as it had a point: reminding us that Regine could sing, in case we'd forgotten. (Oh, and one more thing—earth to Regine—a low décolletage does not a beauty make.)

The show had two main "stories"—that of Aga and Regine, and Rica Peralejo's horror suitor tale. Peralejo had a geeky *manliligaw* (*barong*, suspenders, square-framed spectacles—the whole lot) whom she was bent on avoiding mainly because, as we gathered, he spoke in flowery rhymes, *a la* Balagtasan.

Funny moment

So he chases her all throughout the show, and she shuns him. The matter is resolved when Peralejo's real-life boyfriend, Bernard Palanca, shows up. There was a funny moment there when she looked straight at the camera and said—"*Oo, kami na uli*" or something like that. Sharon Cuneta also showed up, not in character, with flowers and congratulatory remarks on the show's anniversary.

The part we liked least was the ending, where the three male leads—Manzano, Muhlach and Agbayani—attempted to resolve the whole thing with a meandering conversation on the rooftop of their house. It looked and sounded suspiciously like a space-filler—and they all looked relieved when the sequence was over.

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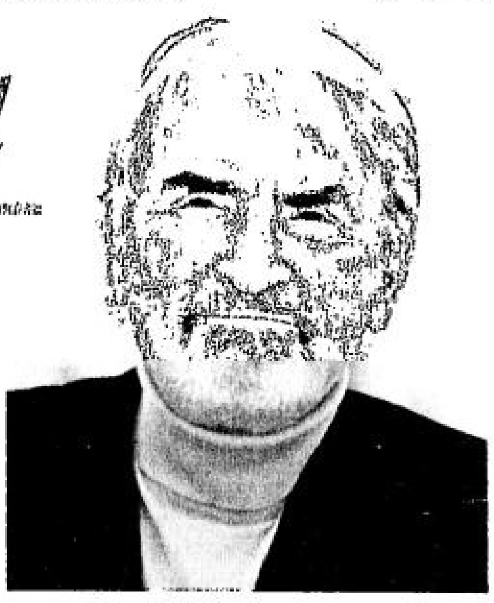
SATURDAY *Special*

Hollywood pays final tribute to Gregory Peck



PECK. Symbol of integrity on and off screen. AFP

By Steve Gorman

LOS ANGELES—Movie stars rubbed shoulders with ordinary film fans on Monday as they paid final tribute to Gregory Peck, remembering him as one of the last heroes of Hollywood's golden era and a man symbolizing integrity on and off screen.

Memorial service

Close to 3,000 people turned out for an afternoon memorial service led by Roman Catholic Cardinal Roger Mahony.

Peck, who was 87, died peacefully at his Los Angeles home last Thursday with his French-born wife of 48 years, Veronique, at his side.

PECK (left) in "To Kill a Mockingbird," with Brock Peters. REUTERS

"Gregory Peck did not have to act at being an extraordinary human being," Mahony said during his homily, recalling the actor's support for literacy programs and many other social causes. "Gregory Peck was a man of unique authenticity . . . of deep personal integrity."

The eulogy was delivered by actor Brock Peters, a longtime friend and co-star of Peck in his most famous movie, "To Kill a Mockingbird." Peters, now 75, played the unjustly accused black man Peck defended in his Oscar-winning signature performance as the idealistic Southern white lawyer Atticus Finch in the 1962 film about racial intolerance.

Children

Peck's children—Stephen, Anthony, Cecilia and Carey—spoke briefly during the service, consisting of prayers, hymns and a special video salute to the actor known for his gentlemanly, upright demeanor, quiet dignity and compassion for the underdog.

In one clip from a question-and-answer session late in life, Peck was asked how he most wanted to be remembered.

"I would like be remembered as a good husband and father," he said at first. "As a professional, I'd like to be thought of as a storyteller."

The tall, square-jawed actor with a deep, sonorous voice made more than 50 films in a career spanning six decades, his most memorable including "Roman Holiday" with Audrey Hepburn, "Gentleman's Agreement," "The Guns of Navarone" and a rare turn as the villain in "The Boys from Brazil."

Reuters

AFI award for De Niro

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—You … you've got a gift, Robert De Niro.

That finger-wagging, slightly menacing compliment the actor paid to his skittish psychiatrist in the mob comedy "Analyze This" was echoed by The American Film Institute as it honored De Niro with its 31st Life Achievement Award.

Honor

The 59-year-old star of "Taxi Driver" and "GoodFellas" accepted the honor Thursday evening at the Kodak Theater in Hollywood, site of the annual Academy Awards.

"I don't want to take anything for granted and I'm glad I have this opportunity to let you know how honored I am to work with you and be included in this wonderful tradition," De Niro said, halting frequently during his speech. "I know I'm getting sentimental, but that's what this is all about."

Many of his colleagues—from Jodie Foster, who was only 12 when she played a prostitute in "Taxi Driver," to filmmaker Martin Scorsese—described him as an intensely quiet man who has remained humble and generous.

Vanity

James Woods, who starred opposite De Niro in director Sergio Leone's 1984 crime epic "Once Upon a Time in America," said the actor suggested Woods wear a set of perfect, bright white teeth to demonstrate the aging character's wealth and vanity. The producers balked at the cost, so De Niro paid for them himself.

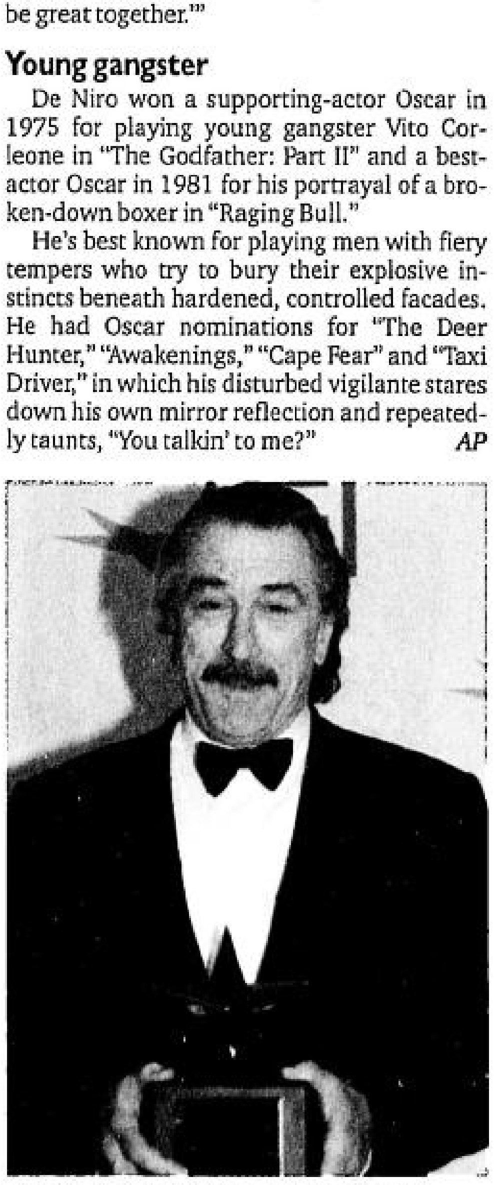
"Bob De Niro personally paid so that I could have something that would make my character just a little bit better," Woods told the crowd. "I went up to him and said, 'Bob, why did you do that?' . . . He said, 'You know what, if you're not great, I can't be great. So let's all be great together.'"

Young gangster

De Niro won a supporting-actor Oscar in 1975 for playing young gangster Vito Corleone in "The Godfather: Part II" and a best-actor Oscar in 1981 for his portrayal of a broken-down boxer in "Raging Bull."

He's best known for playing men with fiery tempers who try to bury their explosive instincts beneath hardened, controlled facades. He had Oscar nominations for "The Deer Hunter," "Awakenings," "Cape Fear" and "Taxi Driver," in which his disturbed vigilante stares down his own mirror reflection and repeatedly taunts, "You talkin' to me?"

AP



DE NIRO. Intensely quiet man who has remained humble and generous. AP

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New talents attain film, television stardom

By Nestor U. Torre

THE FICKLE entertainment audience continually needs new talents to get excited about. Thus, each year, producers trot out hundreds of young comers who hope to be the few faces that get special attention in the madding show biz crowd.

KRISTANNA Loken plays the Terminatrix in "Terminator 3."

Tall beauty

In the movies, the current comer is Kristanna Loken, a tall beauty who has copped the plum role of the Terminatrix in "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines."

The Terminatrix is the sophisticated cyborg killing machine who becomes the nemesis of the T-1000, played once again by action superstar Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The question, of course, is why Columbia Pictures has cast a beauty like Kristanna in the part of a robot. The answer is precisely the surprise value of the unexpected casting.

Standard monster

Also, a beautiful villain is more inveigling than your standard beefy and leering monster.

Then there's the movie script's additional requirement for the Terminatrix to walk down Rodeo Drive—with no clothes on! The nude sequence required a perfect body, so somebody like Kristanna *had* to be cast in the part.

Unknown

The final requirement was for the Terminatrix to be played by an unknown, and Kristanna fit the bill there, as well. So, she triumphed over the *10,000* other talents who auditioned for the part.

Kristanna observes that the role of the Terminatrix compensates for all the movie parts she's lost out on because she was too tall for them. That liability has now become an asset, and the plum, star-making role of the Terminatrix is hers. She hopes, however, that producers don't typecast her in robot and villain roles from here on in!

New kid

On television, the new kid on the Nickelodeon block is Donovan Patton. Starting this month, he takes over from Steve Burns as the star of the popular children's show, "Blue's Clues."

Burns played the lead for years, but his character, Steve, is now headed for college, so his younger brother Joe (Patton) becomes the new best pal of the show's popular pooch character.

An introductory show, "Meet Joe," helps viewers get to know the funny, friendly and inquisitive Joe as he fills Steve's shoes by learning to play fun games with his new doggie friend.

Pals

Joe makes "Blue's Clues" his own by bringing along his pals Baby Bird and Polka Dots, and a new theme song for the show.

In each episode of "Blue's Clues," young viewers are invited into a computer-animated storybook world to help Joe and Blue solve the day's puzzles. The show continues to draw acclaim for its unique interactive format, and for exploring advanced topics like reading, sign language, geography, emotions and art appreciation.

DONOVAN Patton is the new star of "Blue's Clues."

Mattie Stepanek is optimism personified

By Noelani Torre

LARRY King calls him "an extraordinary young man" and we agree. Matthew Joseph Thaddeus Stepanek, better known as Mattie, is a mere 12 year old biologically, but he has the wisdom of a sage.

First book

We first heard of him a few years back, after he published his first book, but we'd never seen nor heard him speak until a few days ago when he guested on CNN's "Larry King Live."

At 12, Mattie is a New York Times best-selling poet and an ambassador of goodwill—and what's even more extraordinary, he manages it all while confined to a wheelchair, struggling with a life-threatening disease.

Mattie was born with dysautonomic mitochondrial myopathy. It's a very rare form of muscular myopathy that has him more or less chained to his chair, and with an eroding trachea.

"The doctors didn't think I would live—but I did," he told King in an earlier interview. "So they said, 'OK, he's not gonna last six months.' But I did … So I lived to be two and they said, 'OK, 5 is it.' I lived to be 5. And then they said, '10.' And here I am at 11 years old. So now they are saying 'teens, or as a young adult,' but I plan to be 101!"

Colossal odds

That optimism is typical of Mattie, who despite the colossal odds against his very survival retains his positive outlook and an amazing grip on life. The same disease has already claimed the lives of his three siblings, only one of whom he was able to know, and his mother also suffers from it.

Jeni Stepanek, his mom, suffers from adult onset mitochondrial myopathy. The disease became evident when she was already an adult, and she didn't know that all her children would get it as well. "Mattie is a combination of miracles and the best medical practice possible," she told King in another interview. "He's outlived any child with this particular form of the disease. You just don't live through early childhood."

Indeed, Mattie is a living and breathing (with the aid of a ventilator) miracle in more ways than one. Most people if faced with a lifetime of pain would probably just curl up and let got of life, but Mattie isn't even hanging on grimly—he's living more than others who have whole, healthy bodies.

Larry has had Mattie in his show before, but on this particular telecast, they accepted phone calls for the first time. One caller asked the question we also wanted an answer to: "How do you stay positive?"

Question

Mattie, looking fragile but bright-eyed and surrounded by medical equipment, pondered the question for a few seconds and finally said:

"Sometimes when you're sitting in the hospital, or even at home and you're having a hard time breathing, minutes, seconds seem to drag on like hours. And you know it's really tough to stay positive.

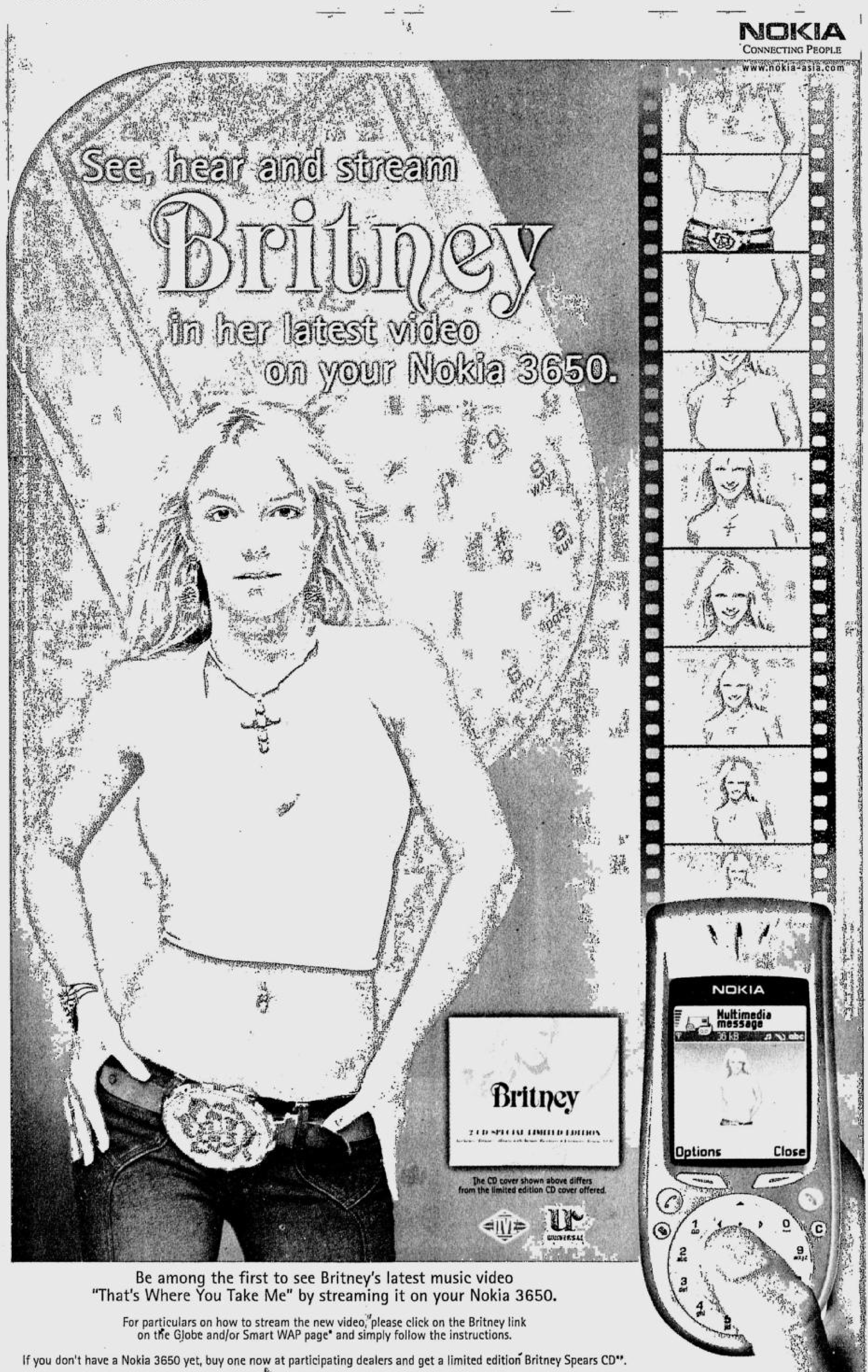
"I mean, sometimes I ask, why me? And sometimes I say, why am I even doing this? But, you know, it is important not to give up. If you give up, there is nothing to live for.

"Sure, you can crawl into a corner and say, I give up on this, Or you can go out and say, I don't care if I have one hour or one millennum to live, I'm going to live it to the fullest!"

And he certainly does. What's more, he doesn't allow his disease to inhibit the development of his talents, or prevent him from doing what he wants to do. Mattie, who is home-schooled by his mother, holds a junior black belt in karate, and has published five books of poetry.

He calls his poems "heartsongs," which he defines as "the songs in your heart that want you to help make yourself a better person, and to help other people do the same." He also illustrates his books himself, and his paintings are what King calls "Grandma Moses-brilliant."

He's only 12 but he's already done more than most of us ever have, or will. We're glad we were able to catch this interview. What with the sex and violence-oriented television culture we have, Mattie's sincerity, frankness, and boundless optimism was like a breath of fresh air.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1348, Series of 2003. Promo runs until June 30, 2003.

Ford swaps heroes for humor

FORD. Will shoot a fourth Indiana Jones movie next year. AP

By Jill Serjeant

LOS ANGELES—He's a Hollywood hero who doesn't say much but he finds lost Arks of the Covenant, battles poisonous snakes and space invaders and pretty much kicks butt from one end of the universe to the other.

Different

Now Harrison Ford at the age of almost 61 has decided to do something completely different: He wants to make you laugh.

It's not so much that the rugged, quintessentially American hero wants to reinvent himself. It's just that beneath that gruff exterior, that well-known dislike of interviews and all those "sexiest man alive" accolades, Harrison Ford has a sense of humor, and now he wants to show it.

He's only hung up his action hero hat until he starts shooting a fourth Indiana Jones movie next year. But in his new movie, "Hollywood Homicide," which opens in the United States this week, Ford is not only funny. He also has a screen sidekick in Josh Hartnett, who rivals his own status as a heartthrob.

Ford even pulls off a joke about that, telling his screen lover at one point in the movie, "If I can find the ginkgo, I remember to take the Viagra." He plays a cop—again—and as usual he gets the villain in the end after a series of thrilling car chases and stunts—many of which he performs himself.

Ford said he took the role as world-weary Los Angeles police detective Joe Gavilan because of the "comic opportunities." "I was looking for a comedy because lately I've been doing more serious roles . . . In the comedies I have done, mostly romantic comedies, I'm more or less the straight man. This is one situation where I can take advantage of the opportunity to push it a little bit," Ford told Reuters.

Hartnett plays Ford's unlikely partner—a young detective who not only has trouble shooting straight but also has a lucrative sideline as a yoga teacher—and, this being Los Angeles, secret aspirations to be an actor.

"Much of the comedy is built on the difference between the two characters—generational, attitudes about the (cop) business, their tastes in music," said Ford.

Helicopter

Ford is not exactly cracking jokes yet during media interviews, and sometimes looks as if he wishes he were back at his Wyoming ranch flying his helicopter.

He has often bristled at the suggestion that he plays heroes, preferring to describe his screen roles as "guys that behave well under difficult circumstances." But the famously tight-lipped actor does raise a quizzical eyebrow when asked whether he identifies with his "Hollywood Homicide" character—a man he describes as "better at work than at life."

"Maybe we have that in common," the twice-divorced superstar conceded. "I wouldn't be surprised . . . He's not meant to be perfect in any aspect of life. Part of his charm is his failure to be perfect but nonetheless resolute and hard-working and focused on what he needs to do."

Ford took the role of Gavilan when the movie was still at the concept stage, with no script. "I start with wonderful, and ask for it to get better. I knew a wonderful Russian lady architect. I would come to her with proposals for changes and refinements, and she would very patiently listen to my ideas and say 'no limit for better' and that's pretty much a maxim I live by," he said.

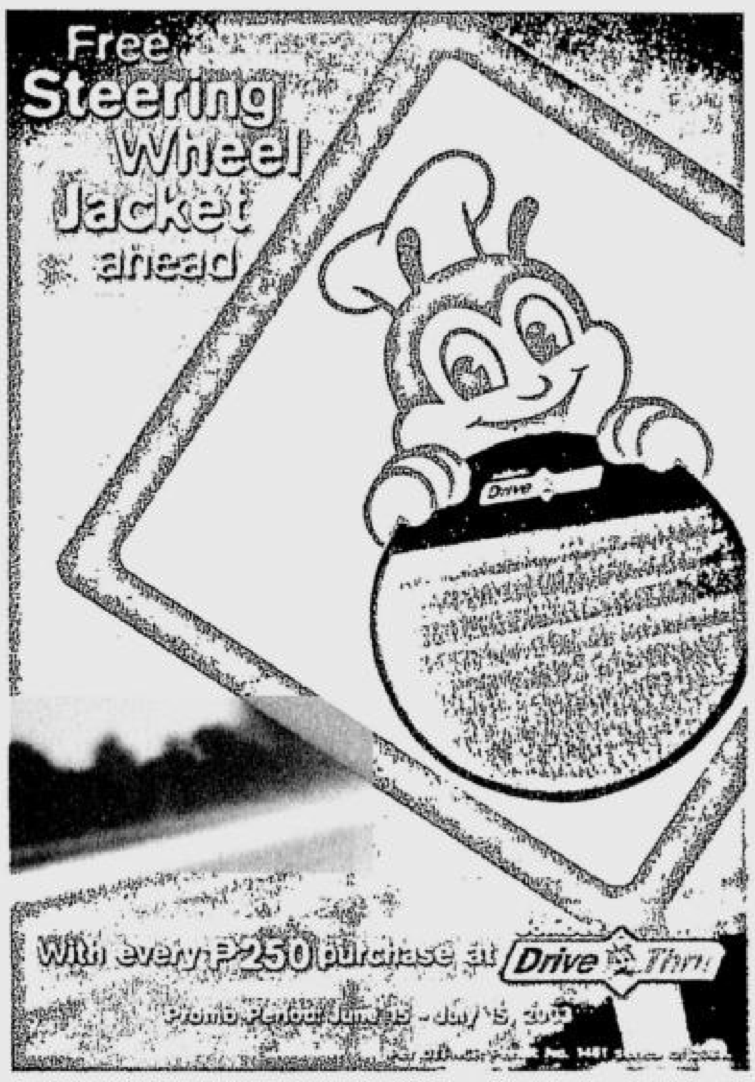
Although "Hollywood Homicide" follows Ford's Russian submarine drama "K-19:The Widowmaker," which was a box-office disappointment last year, he has starred in four of the 10 highest-grossing movies of all time—"Star Wars," "The Empire Strikes Back," "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "Return of the Jedi."

Ceremony

In May he got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, attending the ceremony with his constant companion of the past year, former "Ally McBeal" star Calista Flockhart.

Ford says he feels under no pressure to keep delivering blockbuster hits, nor any desire to direct ("too hard, takes too long"). But he has signed up for a long-awaited fourth Indiana Jones movie, although prying out details is as challenging as trying to find that Lost Ark.

"We start shooting summer of 2004, Steven (Spielberg) is going to direct. That's all I can say yet," he said. *Reuters*



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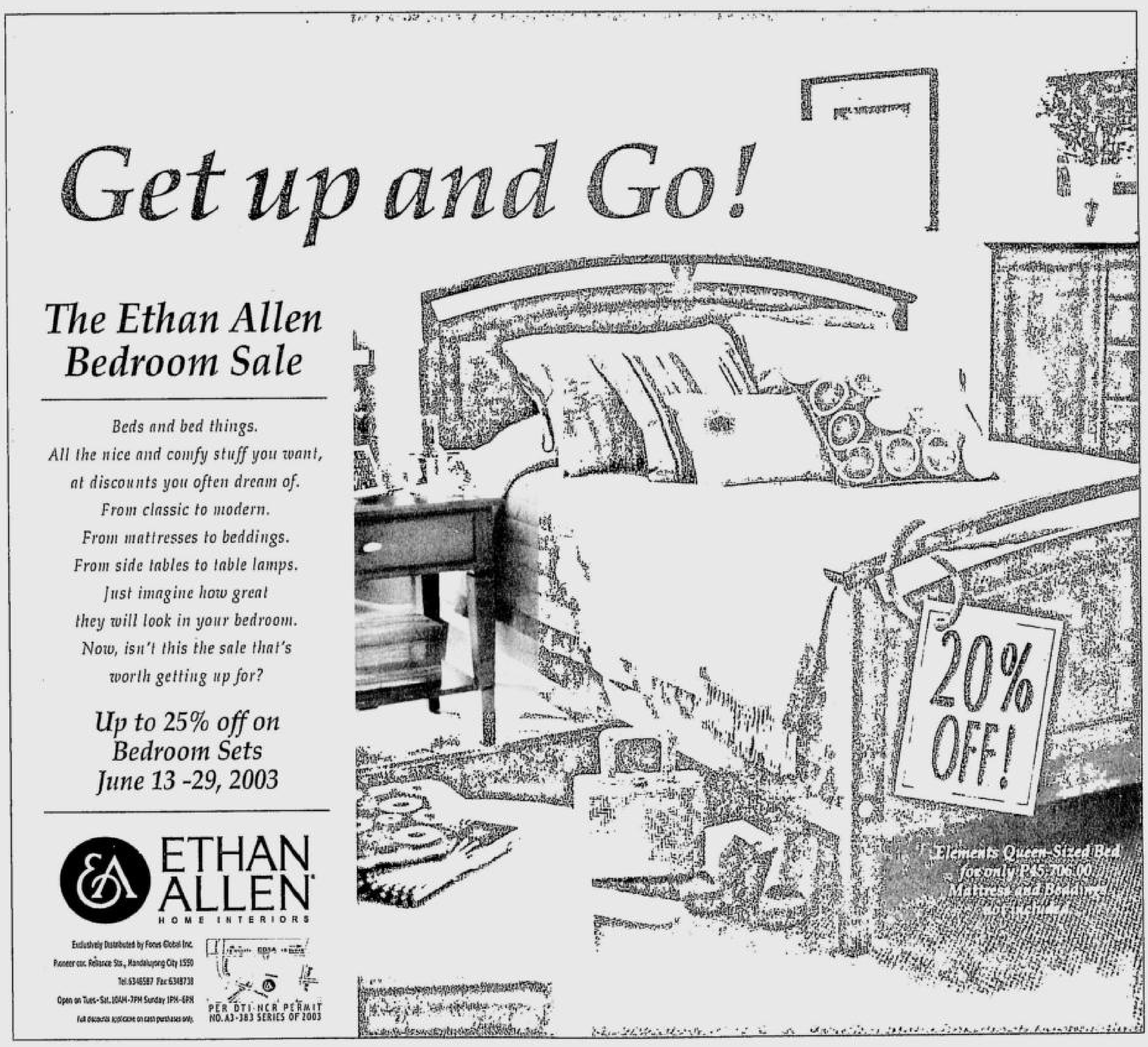

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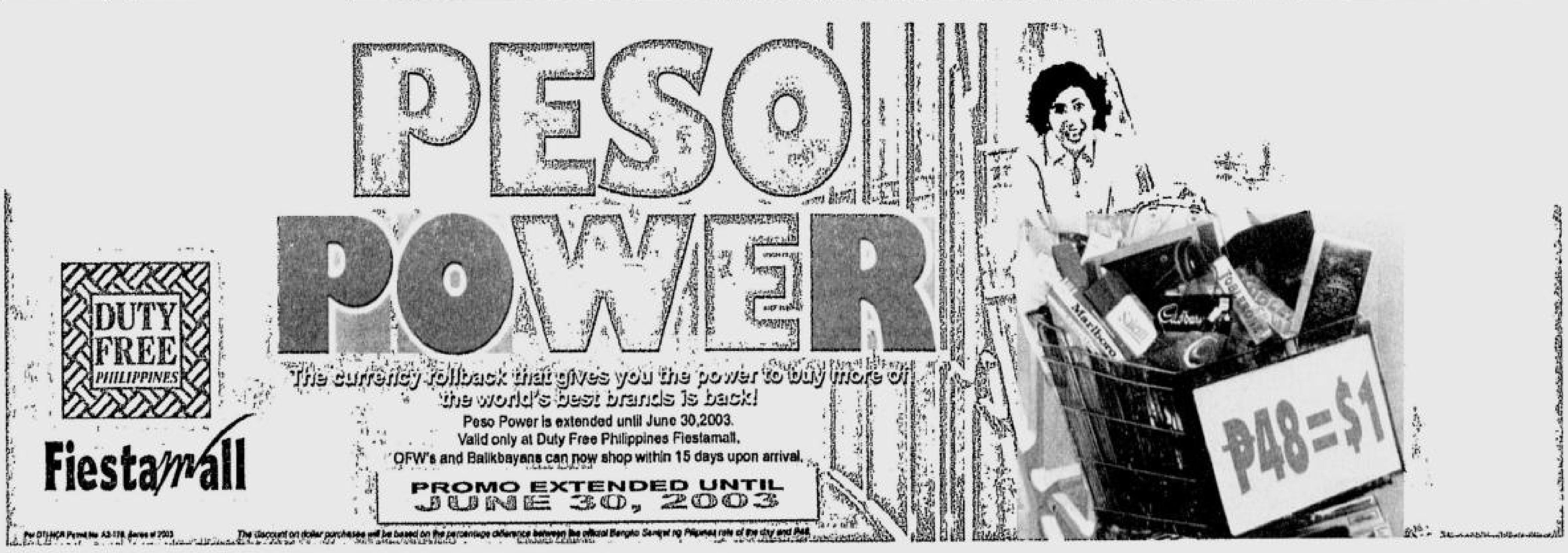

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'Taken' premieres on Star Movies

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE STAR Movies channel is telecasting the hit mini-series, "Taken" every Sunday at 9 p.m. starting next month. What makes the series so special? Its executive producer is Steven Spielberg, no less, and it was a hit on American TV.

"Taken" weaves together the stories of three families over multiple generations, and underscores their crucial role in the history of alien abduction.

The 10-episode saga was nominated for best mini-series at the 2003 Golden Globe Awards and was the best rated show on the Sci-Fi Channel in the States, making it the top-rated cable network in primetime.

'Sorcerer's Stone'

"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone' will be screened for the first time on Asian television at 9 tonight on HBO. Encores are at 9 p.m. on June 26 and 9:30 p.m. on June 29.

The film is about a boy who learns on his 11th birthday that he's the orphaned son of two powerful wizards, and possesses unique magical powers of his own.

Invited to attend Hogwarts School of Wizardry, Harry embarks on the adventure of a lifetime. At Hogwarts, he finds the home and family he never had.

'Game Channel'

These days, computers can do the imagining for you. This had led to the "Game Channel's" SMS-based games on television, like Katapult. The popular game is reminiscent of the classic strategy board game Battleship, and the more recent PC game, Scorched Earth.

Also stimulating is the host of "Game Channel," Game Jock Iya. She's on every Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m. on IBC-13, talking about secret access codes and music, and having fun.

Iya shares, "The fact that it's interactive and people can play wherever there's a TV set are what make 'Game Channel' such fun."

"Game Channel" features other games like Trivia Text, Cross Text, Search Text, Bumper Cars, and Alien Wars. It uses multimedia messaging service (MMS), polyphonic tones, the latest in GSM technology and a mobile phone's SMS feature.

'Fete de la Musique'

Since 1995, Alliance Francaise de Manille has been sponsoring "Fete de la Musique," a festival that promotes French culture while boosting Filipino alternative music.

This year, the music festival's theme is "One World, One Voice," promoting unity in diversity. The festival takes place today at El Pueblo's bars and restaurants at Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Over 60 bands will be performing.

As early as 4 p.m., the Itchyworms will host a program of young bands like Mayonnaise, Copper Pop Thrill, Monkeyspank and Happy Meals, along with established acts like Cambio, Fatal Posporos and Greyhoundz. Later in the evening, bands like Parokya ni Edgar, Rivermaya and Sandwich will perform.

At 7 p.m., the Hairy Dogs will lead a percussion jam at the festival site. On a second stage, WorldBeat Music will hold court. There will also be reggae-flavored rock, ska, swing and Cubano jazz.

Blues bands play at Tequila Joe's and jazz swings at San Mig. At 2:30 a.m., the festival closes with an all-star Blues Jam. Be a part of the musical celebration at the 2003 "Fete de la Musique!"

'Legacy 2003'

The City of Makati through its museum and Cultural Affairs Office, The Peninsula Manila and Islands Finds Trading and Consultancy, is set to launch its 24th exposition of Filipino culture and enterprise.

Dubbed "Celebrating Being Filipino: Legacy 2003," the exposition will be mounted at The Peninsula Manila gallery from June 21 to 27, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Legacy 2003 seeks to create wider awareness and appreciation of Filipino culture, while starting and expanding enterprises among Filipino families and communities.

TONY Cervantes of Island Finds with a folk artisan.

RIVERMAYA is only one of some 60 groups performing at "Fete de la Musique" today.

GAME Jock Iya.

The Peninsula Manila gallery will be transformed into exhibit-sale modules set up by participants coming from local and national government agencies, private sector entities, artists, artist-designers, rural and tribal communities, the academe, foundations and international civic organizations.

Domestic and export marketers and their world-class products include personal-care producer Godiva Inc; Ilios Jewellers; agri-based food processors Gema Coco Food Corp, Sirawan Food Corp., Maite Marques and Seiji Kamura; the specially designed home accessories of Romy Glorioso; Narda's handwoven fabrics; Michelis Gifts and Jewelry; the indigenous high-value fabrics of Reycon's Piña Cloth; coco-based items of Islanders Ethnic Arts and Crafts; pollution controller Gas Save Power Injector Plus; and Off-iSynergy.

The diversity and creativity of our indigenous peoples are showcased by the collections of Tony Cervantes of Island Finds and Sulu Arts and Crafts. Call 896-0277 and 896-2464.

'Kontrobersyal'

Boy Abunda's new program, "Kontrobersyal," focuses on Sen. Ping Lacson at 10 p.m. today on ABS-CBN. The declared presidential candidate is as controversial as they come, so he, Boy and the show could be made for each other.

'Bodyshots'

Padi's Point in Cavite City will present the search for Cavite's representatives to the "Bodyshots" contest at 9 p.m. today. The entertainment restaurant is at P. Burgos st., Caridad, Cavite. Call (046) 431-7842.

Ramon Acoymo

Tenor Ramon Acoymo performs on June 23 with Nolyn Cabahug and soprano Alexis Edralin at Merk's Bar and Bistro, Greenbelt 3.

Himself a Kundirana alumnus, Acoymo directs the Kundirana 2003 Batch farewell concert "This is the Moment," on June 28 at La Salle Greenhills.

On July 16, he conducts the Festival Chorus at Greenbelt Church for the 20th Anniversary of the Greenbelt Parish.

'Darkness Falls'

As Anya in "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," Emma Caulfield, has slayed vampires and demons. Now, she jumps into a new and similarly dangerous arena—the big screen. Emma makes her film starring debut in Columbia Pictures' "Darkness Falls."

For the past 150 years, the legend of Matilda Dixon, "the Tooth Fairy," has hung over the town of Darkness Falls. After being unjustly accused of a heinous crime, the kindly old woman was savagely slaughtered by a mad rabble one night, and there are those who say her vengeful spirit hovers over the town.

Emma plays Caitlin, a young woman from the town who fights to protect her younger brother (Lee Cormie) from "the Tooth Fairy" who is menacing him when he sleeps. Caitlin's former beau Kyle (Chaney Kley) returns to help stop the evil specter from claiming more victims.

Mel Gibson says his Christ film won't offend Jews and Roman Catholics

LOS ANGELES—Mel Gibson is cautioning Catholics and Jews not to jump to conclusions, promising that his forthcoming film about Jesus Christ will "inspire not offend" them.

Dialogue

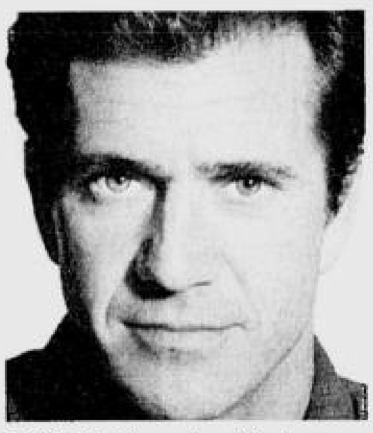
The movie, directed by Gibson, stars James Caviezel as Christ during the last 12 hours of his life and Monica Belluci as Mary Magdalene. The reported $25 million production will feature dialogue only in Latin and Aramaic with no English subtitles.

"'The Passion' is a movie meant to inspire, not offend," Gibson said. "My intention in bringing it to the screen is to create a lasting work of art and engender serious thought among audiences of diverse faith backgrounds (or none) who have varying familiarity with this story."

His statement was designed to rebut criticism that "The Passion" is anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic. The remarks came as the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, which had been critical of "The Passion," apologized for attacking a film that is still unreleased.

Controversy

Controversy over "The Passion" erupted in March after a profile of Gibson's father, Hutton Gibson, appeared in The New York Times Magazine. The profile said the actor's father had controversial traditionalist beliefs not condoned by the Roman Catholic Church and quoted the elder Gibson as denying the Holocaust took place. Some feared Gibson's film would reflect such beliefs.



GIBSON. His movie will feature dialogue only in Latin and Aramaic.

Abraham Foxman, president of the Anti-Defamation League, wrote Gibson a letter expressing concerns that the film would portray Jews in a negative way.

"If the intense scrutiny during my 25 years in public life revealed I had ever persecuted or discriminated against anyone based on race or creed, I would be all too willing to make amends. But there is no such record," the actor's statement read. "Nor do I hate anybody—certainly not the Jews."

AP

Paris celebrates Marlene Dietrich with fashion expo

PARIS—Paris pays tribute to film legend Marlene Dietrich, with the renaming Thursday of a square in her honor and an exposition showing off a stunning collection of clothes that enhanced her mythic status.

Closet

The expo, "Marlene Dietrich: Creation of a Myth," opens Saturday at the Galliera, the Fashion Museum of Paris, and features items from the closet of one of Hollywood's most exotic actresses.

"The clothes tell us about Marlene's personality," said Catherine Join-Dieterle, the museum's director.

DIETRICH. Ahead of her time, she served as inspiration for a generation of fashion designers.

The museum has borrowed more than 250 pieces of the late star's wardrobe and accessories from a collection at the Filmmuseum Berlin, where Dietrich was born in 1901.

The pieces are being exhibited in three dark, big rooms, the clothes mysteriously lit and her songs playing in the background—just as the sultry screen siren would have liked it.

Arranging the pieces by what she wore in public and private hasn't been easy, considering that Dietrich unconventionally let the two domains overlap. While wearing mostly pajama-type silk pants in the house, she would always dress up outside, even while going shopping, just in case a photographer passed by, Join-Dieterle said.

"She not only was 'a la mode,' she also influenced fashion directly," she said.

Famous

While top tailors and fashion designers, like Dior, created her dresses, Dietrich made them famous, made them her own. Barbara Schroeter, who restores textiles for the Filmmuseum, said Dietrich would stand still in a dress for 10 hours at a time while tailors improved it under her direction.

"Glamour, shock, provocation, elegance" are some of the words that best describe this distinct Dietrich style, according to Werner Sudendorf, director of the collection in Berlin.

Dietrich was ahead of her time and served as inspiration for a generation of fashion designers. One of her pantsuits was later picked up by Yves-Saint Laurent and now constitute common attire for women.

In Dietrich's day, women didn't wear pants, especially not in public—so her trousers and male accessories like hats and canes were particularly shocking. One Parisian hotel in the 1930s wouldn't even allow her to enter through its main entrance in pants, Schroeter said.

The final piece in the exhibition, Marlene's famous white, majestic swan-feather coat, leaves a final sense of the myth she created around her: that of a queen, self-confident and icy—but above all, glamorous.

Uniform

The coat contrasts with a uniform exhibited earlier, which she wore while singing for American troops during World War II. Dietrich renounced Nazi Germany in the 1930s. She became a US citizen in 1939.

Later Thursday, a square was named in her honor in Paris, where she spent the last 17 years of her life until her death in 1992 at age 90.

AP

BBC's 'Tomorrow's World' makes science exciting

By Noelani Torre

CABLE television bombards us poor, beleaguered viewers with program after program 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It's no wonder that we let most of its offerings get past us unheeded.

Attention span

We cable TV viewers have busy thumbs and short attention spans because, with so many shows to choose from, it just takes too much time and effort to really concentrate . Thus, for a scientific television show to grab our wholehearted attention—and we're interested in science in the first place—it would have to be particularly striking and interesting.

For us, this means a snappy script, an intelligent host, a lineup of relevant topics, and comprehensive but not pedantic discussions. There aren't many shows that possess all these traits, but one that most certainly does is BBC World's science program, "Tomorrow's World."

Even though it's a mere 30 minutes long, "Tomorrow's World" packs a big punch unequalled by longer programs. In half an hour, it tackles topics that would take other programs hours to discuss.

Brisk and no-nonsense (in that classic British way), the program gets straight to the point, wasting no time in unessential commentary. It's quite a radical change of pace, especially for people who are more used to the laid-back and chatty approach that our own local programs usually adopt.

Interested

Here you won't hear anybody dithering about with such useless remarks as "we hope you'll be interested in today's show," etc. When you tune in to "Tomorrow's World," it is assumed that you already are interested—and the show proceeds to make you even more so by delivering the goods forthwith.

In a recent show, for example, they were able to present *five* different items in their allotted half-hour: a condition called discalculia, two new inventions (a mobile digital TV and a bed of rods), a novel way of cleaning, and the latest theories on feasible interstellar travel arrangements.

Discalculia, is a kind of numbers blindness that afflicts certain individuals, something like math dyslexia. In the show, they had the professor who sort of discovered it do tests on three people that involved counting dots and such.

It seems that people with discalculia, no matter how intelligent they are in other fields and even in the more abstract kind of mathematics, have difficulty doing basic sums. So, if you've always had problems with numbers, you just might have discalculia—if you didn't sleep through all your math classes, anyway . . .

The new inventions featured were a digital television set whose handy flat screen you could bring around (not exceeding 30 meters from the "base"), and a bed that doesn't use a mattress or springs, but a suspension system made up of plastic rods.

Innovations

New inventions are among "Tomorrow World's" usual themes. For the 38 years they've been on the air, they've predicted such gadgets and innovations as the fax machine, computer banking, the compact disc, camcorder, pocket calculator, barcode reader, personal stereo, and even the breathalyser test.

What is impressive is that their subjects don't suffer in the telling, brief though it may be. They may scrimp on time but not on the research itself.

They manage to do this even with such a complex topic as interstellar traveling, which involves a lot of other subtopics like what craft would we be using, would we be able to harness enough energy, what effects would it have on the human psyche, etc.

Discussions

The show is easy to understand, but it doesn't talk down to viewers, or oversimplifies things. The discussions can be a tad too brief at times, but then again we're not looking for complete dissertations from a half-hour program.

All in all, it's definitely one of the better science programs we've seen so far on cable television—because of its format, and because of its focus on the latest, most relevant developments in science and technology.

It's a shame then that, shortly after we watched this program, we discovered that the BBC had decided to drop the show from its weekly slot due to declining ratings (in Britain, at least). Even though the show has been a household name in that country for almost four decades now, it seems that viewers there are looking for more "people-oriented" programs.

We were saddened to hear this, as we didn't think there was anything wrong with the show, but there you have it. We'll just have to console ourselves with the last installments in the series still airing on BBC World.

Two Filipino films go global

By Nestor U. Torre

IS IT just a coincidence, or is there an interesting and inspiring significance to reports that both Warner Bros. *and* Columbia Pictures have decided to include Filipino and Fil-Am movies in their line-up of releases for the second half of Film Year 2003?

Development

We'd like to believe the latter. This development indicates that our movies are finally getting noticed, not just on the international art film circuit, but also in mainstream theaters abroad.

Warner Bros. is releasing Gil Portes' "Mga Munting Tinig" after the low-budget independent film won honors in international film festivals.

The film tells the heartwarming story of a young teacher (Alessandra De Rossi) who forms a choral group at a school in a poor village, thus transforming the lives of the students there, as well as the outlook of their families.

Instructively, the very Filipino story moved audiences in film festivals abroad, proving once again that a good, inspiring tale can affect viewers anywhere. For this reason, Warner Bros. has decided to add the Filipino production to its list of 2003 releases.

Good company

For its part, Columbia Pictures has chosen a Fil-Am production, "The Debut," to join its other 2003 offerings, which include the Julia Roberts starrer, "Mona Lisa Smile," "Gigli" with Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck, "Terminator 3" with Arnold Schwarzenegger, "Hollywood Homicide" with Harrison Ford, and "Daddy Day Care" with Eddie Murphy. "The Debut" is keeping very good company, indeed.

"The Debut" is a critically acclaimed film about Filipino Americans in Los Angeles. In the movie, Ben (Dante Basco) is a talented high-school senior who enrols in a prestigious art school so he can realize his dream to become an animator.

However, his plans come into conflict with those of his immigrant father (Tirso Cruz III), a postal worker who wants his son to become a doctor.

ALESSANDRA De Rossi (center) plays a young teacher who inspires her pupils to excel in "Mga Munting Tinig."

Disagreement

This deeply-rooted disagreement (between the son who is struggling to fit into American life and the father who wants to give his children a better life than he had) threatens to ruin the elaborate debut of the young protagonist's 18-year-old sister.

Aside from Tirso, Eddie Garcia and Gina Alajar are also in the film. A couple of years ago, they flew to the States to shoot their scenes there.

Festivals

Since then, "The Debut" has been making the rounds of film festivals, winning positive reviews and adherents along the way. Now that it's finally been snapped up by Columbia, it'll reach an even bigger market.

The hope is that "Mga Munting Tinig" and "The Debut" will do well in international release, and thus pave the way for other deserving Filipino and Fil-Am productions to also go global.

SPIT brings down the house

By Bibsy M. Carballo

IF THERE is anything that has great chances at survival these days, it's entertainment. But it can't be just entertainment, as anyone witness to the many closures of bars and entertainment spots will attest. It has to be entertainment with a difference, something that appeals to a niche market, or offers something relatively new.

New club

Right now, a group called SPIT, performing Tuesdays at Comfort Room on Jupiter, Makati, a new club owned by Jon Santos, is drawing crowds, and literally bringing down the house.

An acronym for Silly People Improv Theater, SPIT, coined by member Joel Trinidad, offers hilarious entertainment built around improvisational games. There is no script; the acts come out of suggestions from the audience, so each performance is unique.

SPIT was formed last June 2002. Eleven menbers comprise the group, headed by the husband-wife team of Gabe and Beepsie Mercado. After taking a workshop under the father of modern improv, Paul Sills, the couple decided to form their own group.

GAMES comprise the improv group's fun-filled act.

Participatory

We checked out the group and found Comfort Room full to capacity, and, best of all, enthusiastic and participatory. Since the life of their act is audience participation, the actors have to deal with expected fears and the innate shyness of Filipinos.

"We've performed a number of times to dry, uncooperative crowds," says Gabe. "Most of the time, Pinoys harbor a fear of comedy acts—fear *na pagtawanan sila o kaya iinsultuhin*. So, we make it clear that we will not have fun at their expense."

The secret, he continues, is in balancing the obligation of entertaining the audience with just enjoying improv for improv's sake.

Improvised songs

The act starts with improvised songs which is a staple of the show. Given that five of the members are musical theater artists—Joel, Jay Ignacio, Carelle Mangaliag, Dingdong Rosales, Geraldine Tan—it is obvious that they take their singing seriously. The rest—Rodel Mercado, Akong Boncaras, Karla Pambid-Montalbo and Tommy Alvarado Jr.—are film, television and theater talents.

The games comprise the improv group's fun-filled act. Singing games have the improvisers make up lyrics or entire musicals on the spot; other games have the audience "endow" the players with physical, emotional or other characteristics in order to do things a certain way. Catch SPIT's performance sometime and experience something new in local entertainment!

Behn Cervantes directs CLSU production

AMELIA Lapeña Bonifacio's "Pagbibinyag sa Apoy at Dugo" will be directed by Behn Cervantes for the Arts and Sciences Department of CLSU (Central Luzon State University) on Aug. 18-31 at the CLSU Arts and Science Theater at 8 p.m., with 2 p.m. matinees on Saturdays.

Presentation

The presentation will be staged in celebration of National Language Week, Cry of Balintawak and Araw ng Nueva Ecija.

The historical play revolves around an *illustrado* family in 1896 that gets involved with Andres Bonifacio's seditious Katipunan.

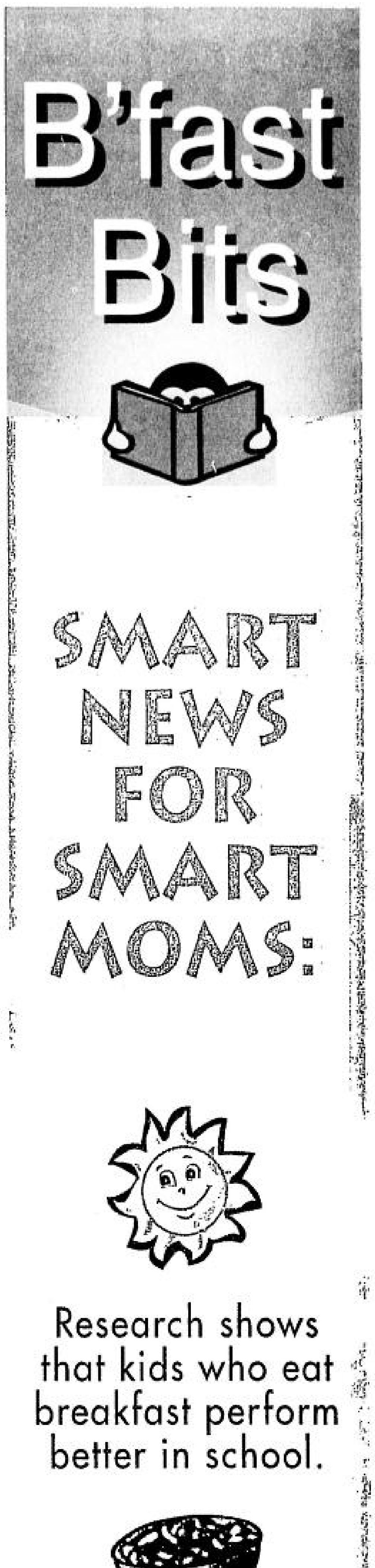
The production is part of Behn Cervantes' personal outreach program to work with groups outside Metro Manila. He has done the same in Tacloban and Baguio, and will soon work with groups in Cebu and Bicol.

Cast

The cast is made up of CLSU faculty and students, headed by Dean Malou Abon, Del Soriano, Aida Serna, Marge Manlulu, Ryan Santos, Aubrey Rillon, Analee Chan and Benjie Garcia.

Assistant director is Prof. Fulgencio Soriano, who also translated the play, originally titled "Walking Canes and Fans." Stage manager is Benjie Santos.

FROM left, Zenaida Serna, Del Soriano and Aubrey Rillon in "Pagbibinyag sa Apoy at Dugo."



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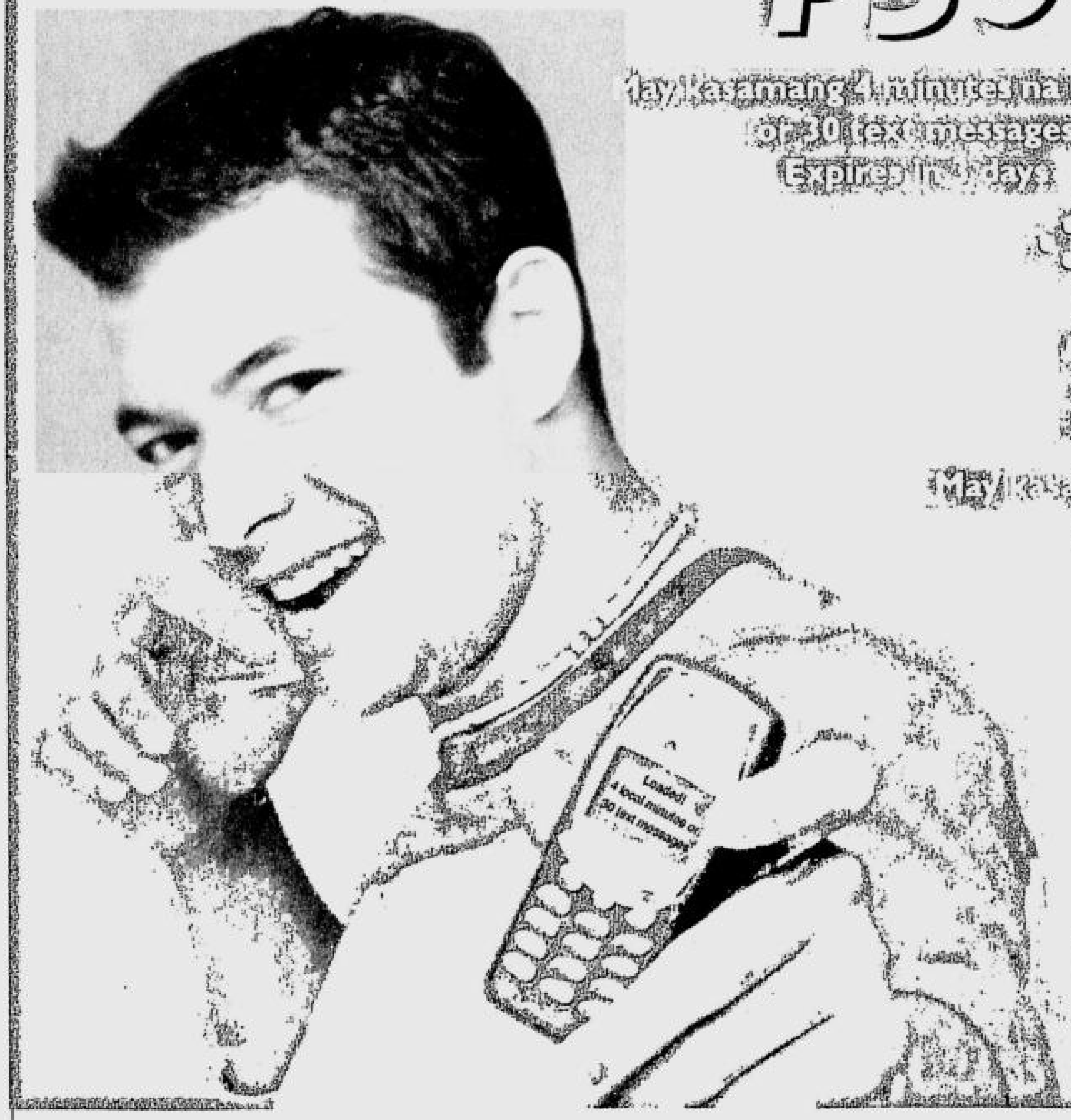
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Super SATURDAY Sp l

Contributing Editor **Pam Pastor**
Creative Director **Tim Yap**

Can *you* keep a *secret?*

WE CAN'T.

That's why in this issue, we are spilling the beans on some of your favorite Hollywood celebrities, and opening a Pandora's box filled with movie secrets you've never heard before. We'll tell you what some of your favorite Pinoy celebrities are doing in the United States, where everyone is going to be tonight. We'll even give you a list of unexplored getaways—no passports required.

But remember: hush hush.

SAM, FRODO AND... GOLLUM? Sean Astin, Elijah Wood and Tim Yap

Hollywood Loud and clear

Text and photos by Tim Yap

IN celebrity-obsessed LA, I caught up with some tinsel-town titties for some not-so-serious tête-à-tête.

I first spotted Jennifer Garner, who was wearing a pleated Prada mini with a tank top, fresh from her MTV Movie Awards victory. Then I bumped into Samuel Jackson, who looked so refreshingly nonchalant. Sean Astin

HOLLYWOOD/ G2

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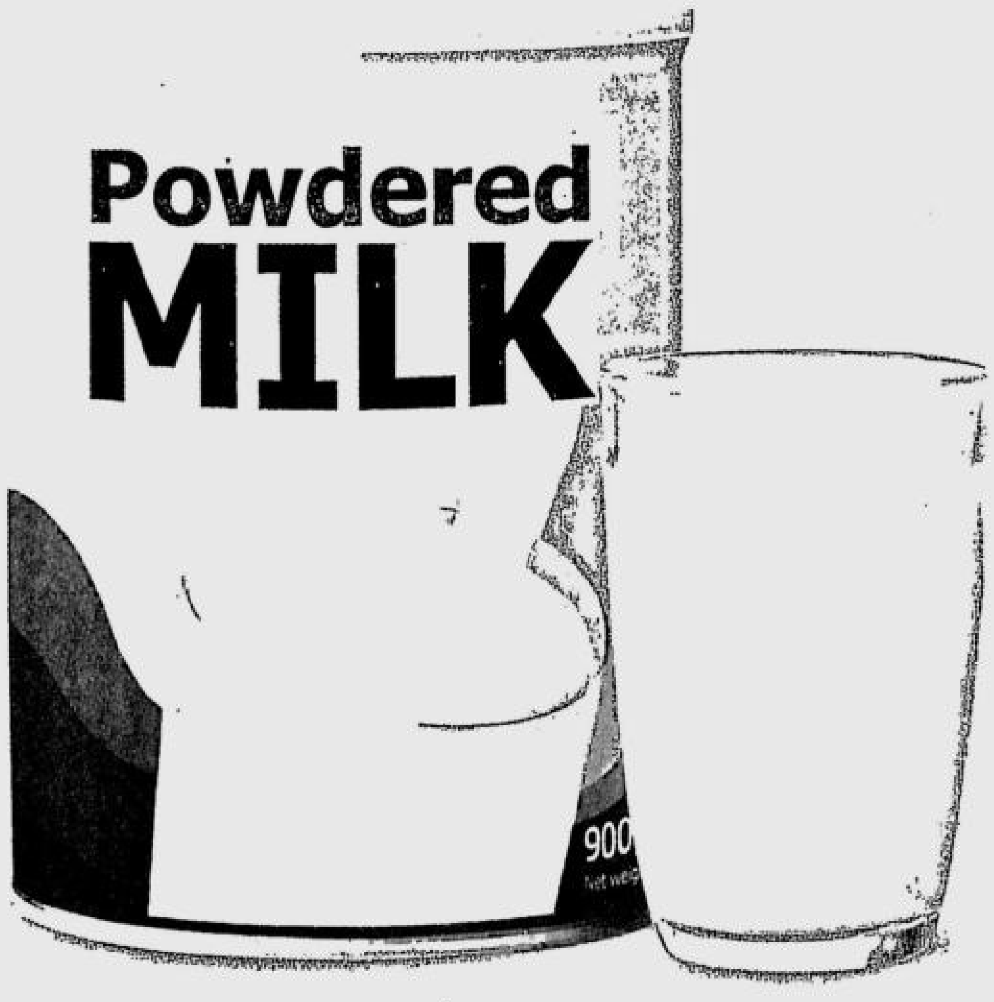

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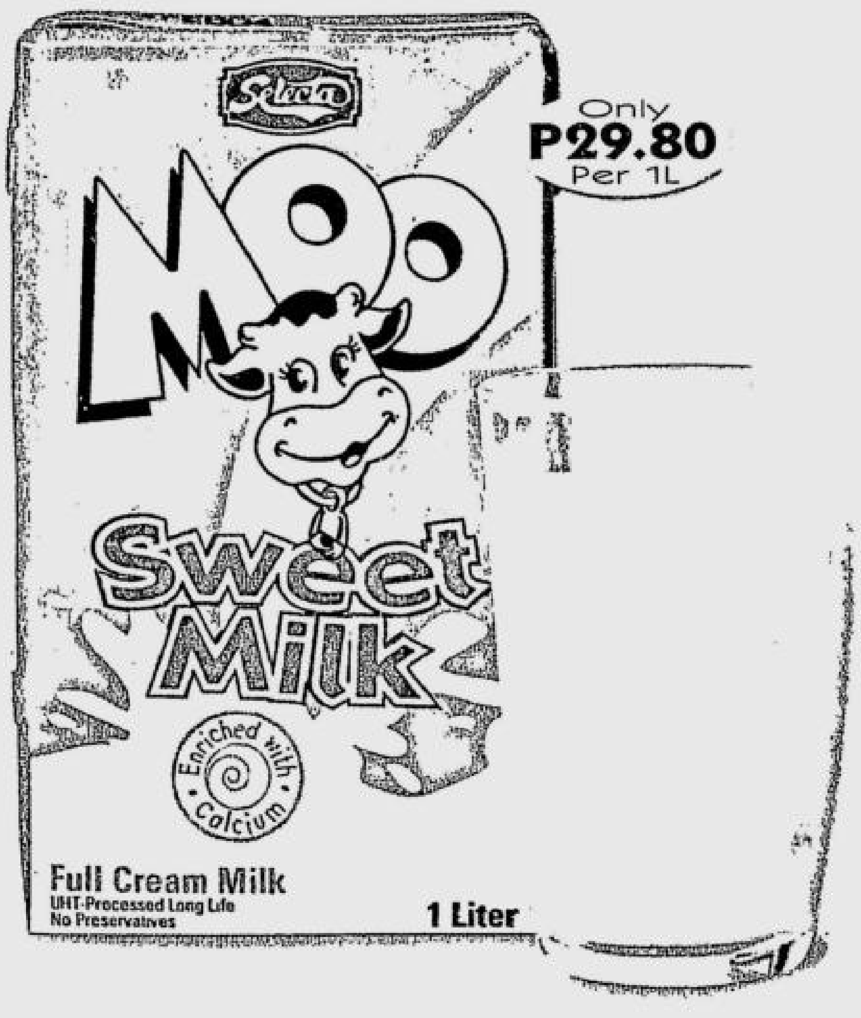

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SUPER HOLLYWOOD! Saturday Special Super was the only Asian representative at the MTV Movie Awards held at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles

We stalked some of your favorite celebs for quick chit-chats

From page G1

and Elijah Wood came next, and I was transported to Hobbit House.

I didn't get scared when I asked "The Ring" star Daveigh Chase some questions, and I found pretty, pretty Amanda Bynes quite adorable. Former boy band member-turned pop prince Justin Timberlake had a whole entourage—publicist, bouncer, manager, zit popper, etc—in contrast to Sean William Scott, who went around all by his lonesome.

Hollywood, here I come.

Hollywood
Loud and clear

TY: How did you enjoy working with Yoda?

Samuel Jackson: (Deadpan.) I never ever thought I'd be in a movie with Yoda. I really loved working with Yoda and George Lucas.

TY: You're doing a film with your buddy Colin Farrel, how is that?

SJ: I enjoyed Colin's company—made me wish I am 25 again. He's the guy everyone wants to be now—good-looking, amorous—he's a man's man.

TY: What's your advice to wannabe actors?

SJ: Be as determined as you can be. Forget about fame and fortune. Think about your craft. If you become a better actor, then you'll have better opportunities.

TY: Whoa! You seem to be such a powerful person—but what are you afraid of?

SJ: Failure.

TY: What music do you like?

SJ: I listen to hip hop to get me going. For work, I like reggae music, then in the evening, '60s, '70s and R&B to relax.

> Super: Who do you think would make a great lady president? Jennifer Garner: Hmm . . . I think Queen Latifah would be good

Tim Yap: Who do you think would make a great lady president?

Jennifer Garner: Hmm . . . I think Queen Latifah would be a good one.

TY: You were great as Electra, you kicked Daredevil's ass—care to go solo?

JG: (Excited.) Yeah, there's a huge possibili loing it as a solo film.

TY: So you're letting Daredevil bite the dust?

JG: Nope, not at all—there's going to I'm working on a comedy, "13 going on 3(than going back to your adolole

TY: What's on your CD player?

JG: I love soundtracks Wh to house or dance musi

TY: How's single life been after your break up with Scott Foley?

JG: (Pauses.) I'm still adjusting and most fun road I've been, but I have am overwhelmed by their support

TY: Are you doing Glamorama? (Brett Easton Ellis' spine-tingling opus on the fashion industry crazed '90s.)

JG: Haven't heard of that one Hotdawwwg!!! (She jumps.

TY: How did you feel about your first hosting job for MTV?

Seann William Scott: (smiles widely, then winks.) The stage is my schtick, baby.

TY: Who gets you star struck?

SWS: The Rock! I think he's even gonna be a bigger star, literally and figuratively.

TY: Do you think Stiffler is getting stiff?

SWS: Well, I can't complain—that's the reason I have a career.

TY: Songs in your Ipod?

SWS: I have an Ipod, but I don't know how to use it. It just looks good on my desk.

TY: Same here with my i book. So what are you listening to now?

SWS: Radiohead. I like getting lost with music and having dreams.

TY: Are you gonna record another album with N' Sync?

Justin Timberlake: Yup, hopefully by the end of this year.

TY: When do you think can gossip go too far?

JT: That's a toughie. How I get by is I pretend it doesn't exist.

TY: You're being tagged as a sex symbol—after the Britney thing. (He admitted to a radio interview about Britney's' "oral acts" on him in exchange for his song's air play.)

JT: I have no idea what you're talking about.

TY: You're good buddies now with David Beckham. Any plans of entering sports as well?

JT: Well, if David can get me to a game, I'd love that.

TY: Most embarrassing moment?

JT: When I saw my face printed on Sean William Scott's crotch. (As a skit for the MTV Movie Awards.)

TY: What kind of songs do you like?

JT: I like to make songs that get the crowd going.

(His manager and bouncer cut us off and Justin is off to his dressing room.)

TY: There was a spoof on asses for Charlie ange can you give me your own version?

Sean Astin: Look t his behi s the bunie

Elijah Wood: Mine

TY: How do you feel about "The l

EW: There's this tional favorite

TY: Best part of being in Hollywood?

SA: I have no idea.

EW: I'm just happy been single too long

TY: What was your favorite class in

SA: Biology? I don't know

TY: What's the worst thing about filmin

SA: 15 hours

EW: That Gollun

TY: At the MTV Awards, you were the only one who didn't swear.

Amanda Bynes: (Surprised.) I know. I do swear, but not often, and not at an awards show.

TY: Do you feel responsible for young people, since they look at you as a role model?

AB: I don't think about it, I just don't want to sound nasty.

TY: Strangest habit?

AB: I like picking on hair breakage.

TY: Any guys in your life? You go to parties a lot?

AB: I have a boyfriend. When I was single, I went to parties a lot. But it's almost phony. So I'm just glad I have a good boyfriend to hang out with.

TY: Who else would you like to work with?

AB: Kirsten Dunst.

TY: Next project?

AB: Nothing planned yet, just relaxing, I'd like to try to get in college, maybe USC.

TY: Advice to young actors?

AB: The most important thing is to keep trying, to take acting classes. Do anything that makes you better.

TY: Do you see a day when you'll be tired of teeny bopper roles?

AB: No, coz I've only done two teeny bopper roles, and it's reaaly less emphasis on the teen part, but more about the girl's life. I want to choose roles that are part of good stories, more than it being teeny bopper or adult.

TY: Favorite designer?

AB: Narciso Rodriguez has amazing clothes. I don't own any but I love his stuff.

TY: Who do you think is beautiful?

AB: I think Kate Hudson is beautiful.

TY: What scares you?

Daveigh Chase: (Cl "The Shining" that was

TY: What are you doing after "The Ring?"

DC: This film

TY: How did you feel while watching your film?

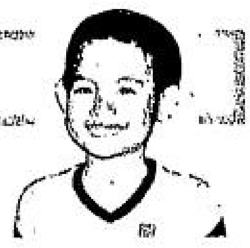
DC: (More cheery.) I wa totall freaked out, even if what I was seeing was myself.

TY: What's your favorite film?

DC: I liked "Maid in Manhattan"- the part when J. Lo and who's that gu When they get together again.

Without a *trace*

SWAK!



by Lex

I USED to love the way Jolina Magdangal dressed up. No, honestly.

The whole world bashed her and called her *baduy,* and yet every single time she performed, her outfits caused a stir.

Cut to the Jolina of today, her completely "toned-down" look. Now that she has certifiably lost her spunk, I think she's simply boring!

It was such a treat to see a young Filipina in clothes that were out there, a little too brash and too crazy for the public's sensibilities. Her get-ups were strange, almost bizarre; and ridiculous, bordering on the laughable. Yet precisely because of this she stood alone, proud, in a world inhabited by either cookie-cutter, saccharine sweet Plain Janes or J-Lo wannabes.

Jolina would often wear non-matching shoes, which took *bongga* to a whole new level. I remember gazing at the apparition and thinking to myself, "Mike Velarde, eat your heart out!" She created her own Bizarro-World fashion trends which kept the public begging for more.

With neon pink leggings *a la* Jane Fonda and half of her bangs dyed fire-engine red, she practically leapt off the stage into the spectators' psyche with unrepentant audacity. A face that could launch a thousand ships; Jolina's look launched a million butterfly clips!

The secret of Jolina's success, her weapon of mass conquest, vanishes into thin air

Jolina's fame was such that it created a new word in contemporary Pinoyspeak. According to her dad Jun Magdangal, "jologs" started as "jol-org," an abbreviation of The Jolina Organization, a fan club. The "r" was subsequently dropped.

Genuine genius

In fact, Jolina is one of few young superstars who have gotten to where they are via an immense amount of talent. She can sing like an angel, and her acting ability is second to none. When I watch Jolina perform I am constantly amazed by her genius. She is absolutely, undeniably, world class. Resist the urge to switch channels the next time you see her on TV, if you want to see what I mean.

When Jolina is in her element she can convey a whole range of emotions with a single glance. In *telenovelas*, she reminds me of a young Nora Aunor. Legend has it that Nora could not only cry on cue, she could control the number of teardrops she allowed to drop from each eye. Under the colorful costumes, Jolina was a girl with depth and soul rarely seen in others her age. She was living proof that youth was, pardon the cliché, not wasted on the young.

Recently, however, Jolina has chosen to "grow up" right before the public's eye. Someone must have told her she had gone overboard and that to survive in the industry she had to transform her image into something less, well...abrasive. While I agree she needed to trash the kid stuff, she could have saved ample doses of the quirky avant garde that we used to know. Today when I see Jolina beside the likes of Kristine Hermosa or Anne Curtis, they all look the same—monotonous and uninteresting. "Unusual" was her signature look; now I don't think she even has one.

The last straw in my book was when Jolina opted to wear an exact copy of the styling and make-up in a Mac Cosmetics ad for the cover of her record, "Jolina Sings The Masters." The Philippines is known as the center of creativity in Asia. We pride ourselves in being able to push the envelope in advertising, marketing, and ingenuity. Surely, if her creative teams had thought long and hard enough, they would have come up with an original concept!

Dubious theory

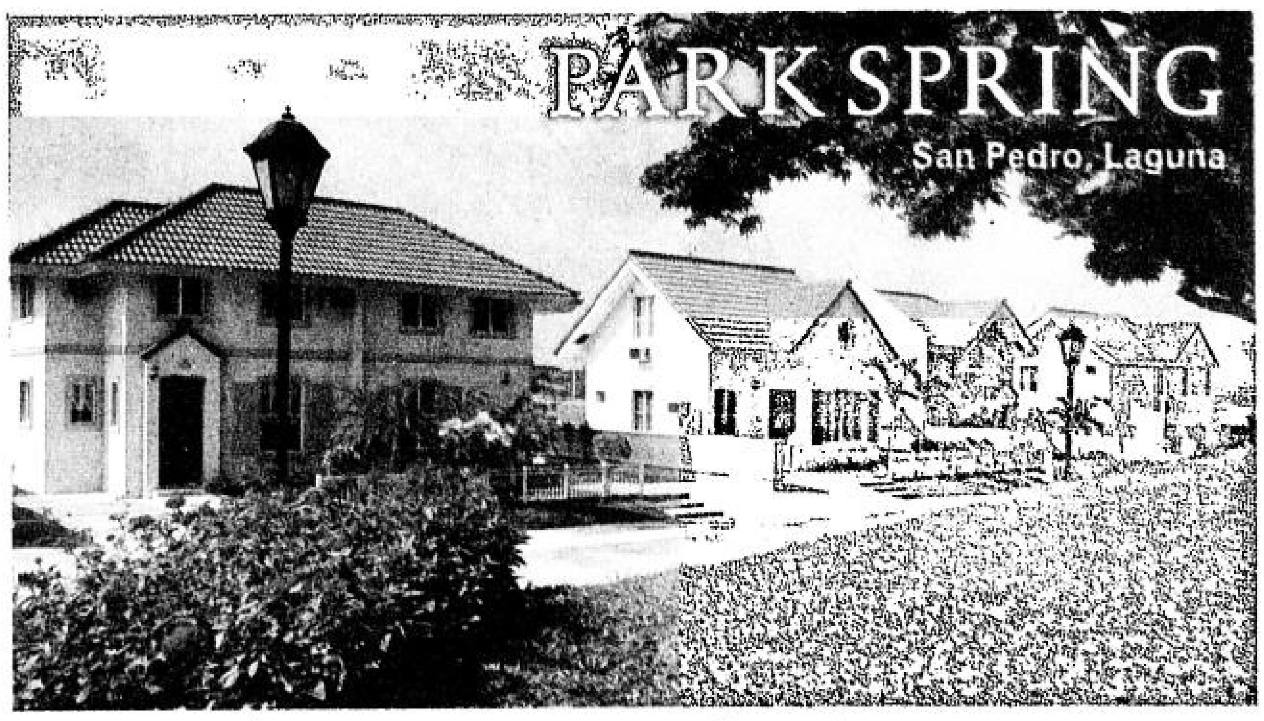
No kidding, I totally miss the way Jolina used to look. That was the secret of her success, her weapon of mass conquest. Now the lock and key to her peculiar charm is gone, packed away somewhere, zilch! Sure, the talent is still there, but where her persona used to leap off the stage, now it blends.

We, as people, have always been taught that with age should come conformity. I am a staunch opponent of this theory! I declare that with age should come wisdom, and wisdom means understanding that you will never please everybody anyway, so it's useless to even try. Instead, try thinking, looking and acting, exactly the way your mood dictates and let all the rules self-destruct!

So, Ms Magdangal, while I fully support your outreach work which makes you host the President's television show, I implore you to not listen to anyone but yourself again. Resume being the original character that you are! Unlike the others around you who can only vie for ratings, you are a guaranteed, bankable talent. A great part of this talent is the knack for behaving and dressing up in a way that promotes the worth of the unexpected. That was what made you truly beautiful.

For comments e-mail: swak_by_lex@yahoo.com

Singing
Jolina
Jolina
Jolina
Jolina



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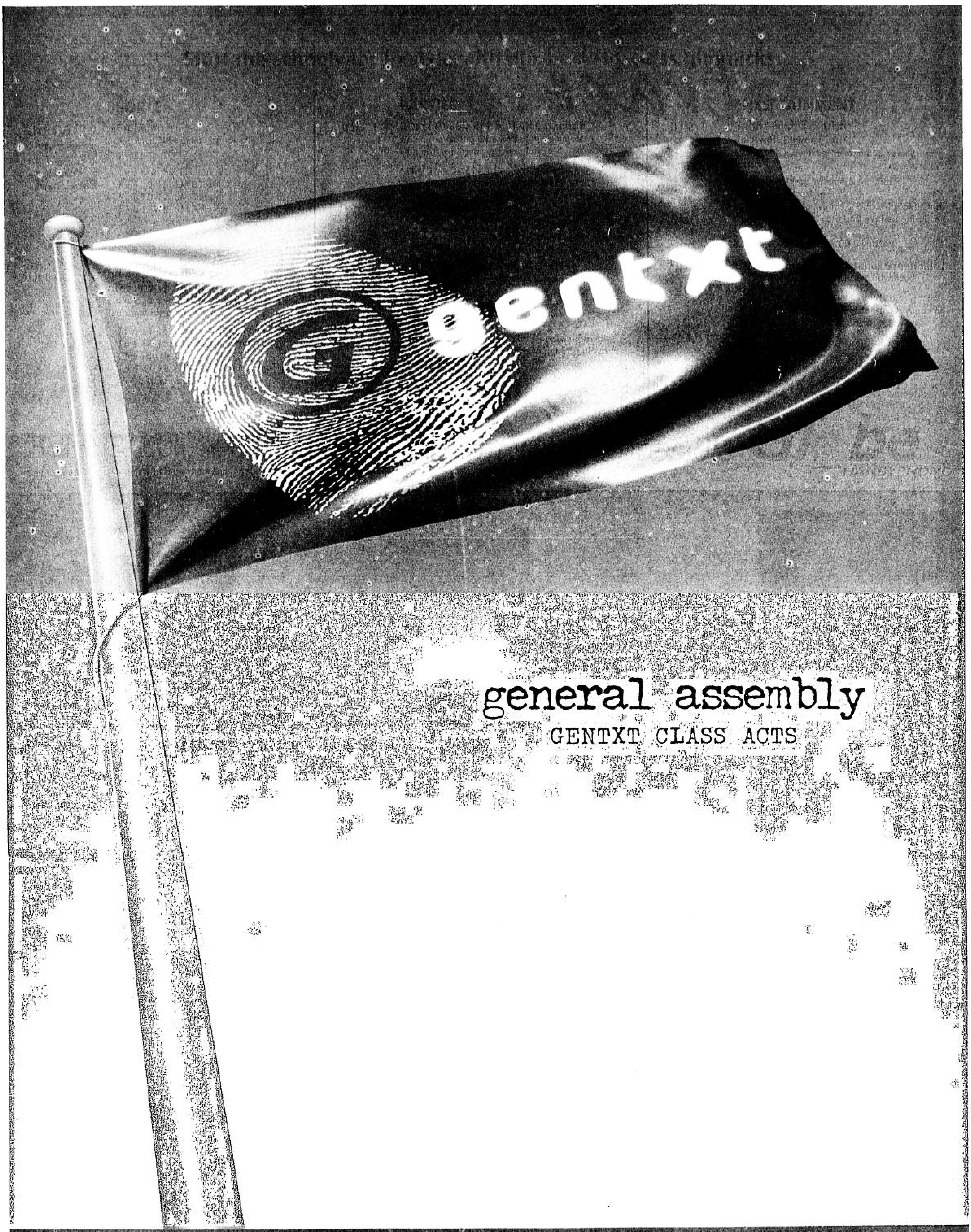

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June 14: Club Wherelse, Makati
June 21: Club Centro, Libis

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JUN 12, 18 & 27 9 PM **Gentxt Nights @ Dish Rockwell Power Plant**
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June 12: Nyoy Volante & Mannos
June 18: Freestyle
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Gmk mo?

WANT to see this band swallow more microphones? Dicta Lisence plays right after Kapatid at the Fete.

PHOTOS BY BRUTAL GRACE

By Maui V. Reyes

LOOKING for a place to hang out tonight? Ditch those boring raves and parties with overpriced beer—it's the 10th annual Fete dela Musique, where bands and fans come together to celebrate the fusion of musical genres as they sing in one voice with the whole world (we do mean that literally—this year's Fete will be held simultaneously around the world, and there will be webcasts of the different festivals).

SMOKE and Fly with the Happy Meals before jamming with Bamboo.

A tradition that started in France to promote street performers and struggling musicians, this year's big event has many unsigned bands raring to be heard—from college groups like Hellbender and Mayonnaise, to blues band Mr. Crayon, to the female-fronted Cambio.

New players are two entirely different genres: percussionists beating on K-Hons, and Electronica artists who dispense more than just Ibiza beats to keep the adrenaline pumping.

With so many fresh acts, we hope next year's Fete will be dedicated solely to new artists.

In case you missed the schedule in last Wednesday's 2bU!, clip this one:

Super guide to Fete dela Musique

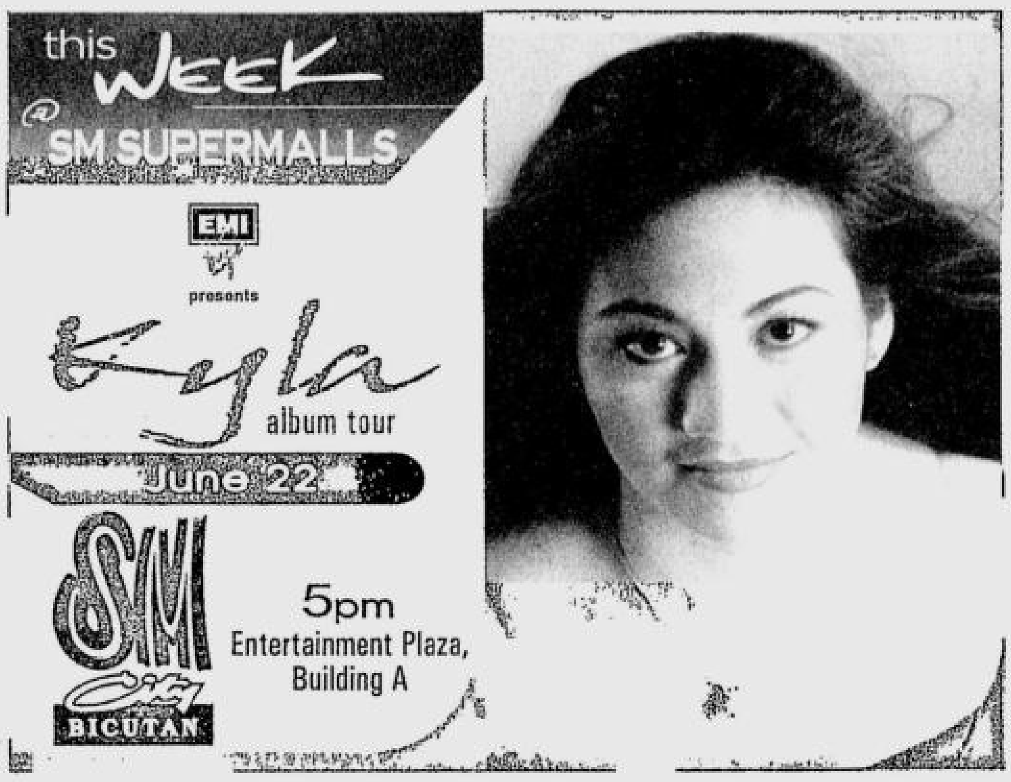
WORLD/REGGAE/SKA/LATIN JAZZ
Rack's Parking Lot
Time on stage
7:30-8:00 Hairy Dawgs & La Batterie
8:00-8:15 Bo Razon/Gruppo Ellegua
8:15-8:45 Bo Razon/Gruppo Ellegua
8:50-9:20 Indio I
9:30-10:15 Cynthia Alexander
10:20-10:40 Loquy
10:45-11:30 Spy
11:40-12:00 Juan Isip
12:05-12:50 Pinikpikan
1:00-1:25 Brownbeat all Stars
1:30-1:45 K-hon JAM
1:50-2:30 Makiling Ensemble

JAZZ
San Mig Pub
Time on stage
8:30-9:15 Jazz Friends w/ Skarlet
9:20-10:05 INNEM
10:15-10:45 Fish Trio
10:50-11:20 Brass Munkey
11:30-12:15 Happy People w/ Ria Osorio
12:20-1:20 Affinity
1:30-2:30 Tots Tolentino and Buhay

ROCK
Chateau Parking Lot
Time on stage
4:30-4:45 Greyhoundz
4:45-5:00 Monkey Spank
5:00-5:15 Boldstar
5:15-5:30 Bog
5:30-5:45 Hellbender
5:45-6:00 Copper Pop Thrill
6:00-6:15 Murder of Crows
6:15-6:30 Pinwheel
6:30-6:45 Mayonnaise
6:45-7:05 Fatal Posporos
7:05-7:30 Moonstar 88
8:30-8:50 Kapatid
8:50-9:05 Dicta License
9:05-9:20 Twisted Halo
9:20-9:35 Happy Meals
9:35-9:55 Bamboo
10:05-10:20 Imago
10:20-10:35 Session Road
10:35-10:55 Cambio
11:05-11:20 Itchyworms
11:20-11:40 Sugarfree
11:40-12:00 Pan
12:10-12:35 Parokya Ni Edgar
12:35-1:00 Rivermaya
1:00-1:20 Sandwich
1:20-1:45 Razorback
2:00-2:45 Jun Lopito & the All Star Blues Band

BLUES
Tequila Joe's
Time on stage
8:30-9:15 Jerks
9:20-9:50 Huka
10:00-10:30 Kharma
10:35-11:25 Mr. Crayon
11:35-12:25 Blue Rats
12:30-1:30 Bluesviminda w/ Cooky Chua
1:40-2:30 Lampano Alley

R&B/HIPHOP
Side Bar
Time on stage
8:30-11:00 Radha
7 Shots
Sun Valley Crew
Pikaso
Gloc9
Josh Disederio
Phat Bone
Nathan J
11:00-12:00 K/24-7
12:00-2:30 DJ Shorty



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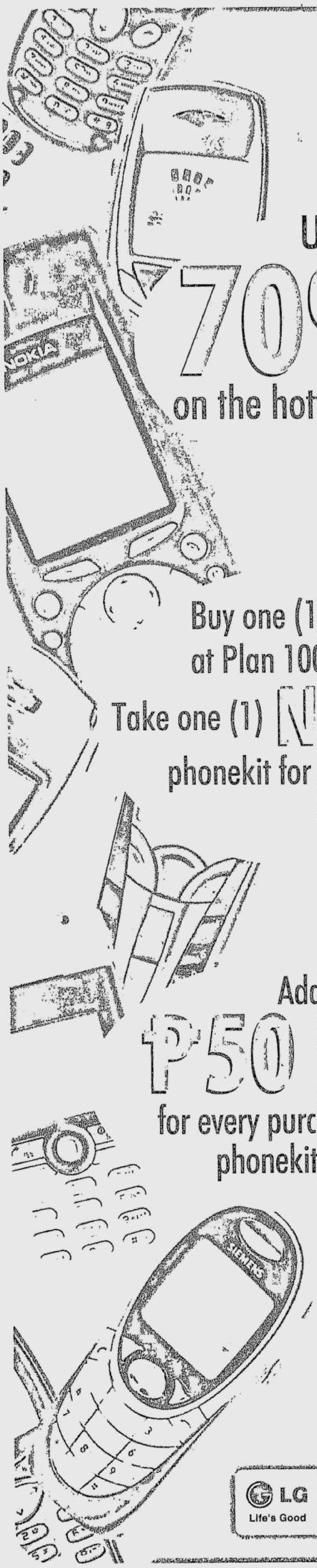

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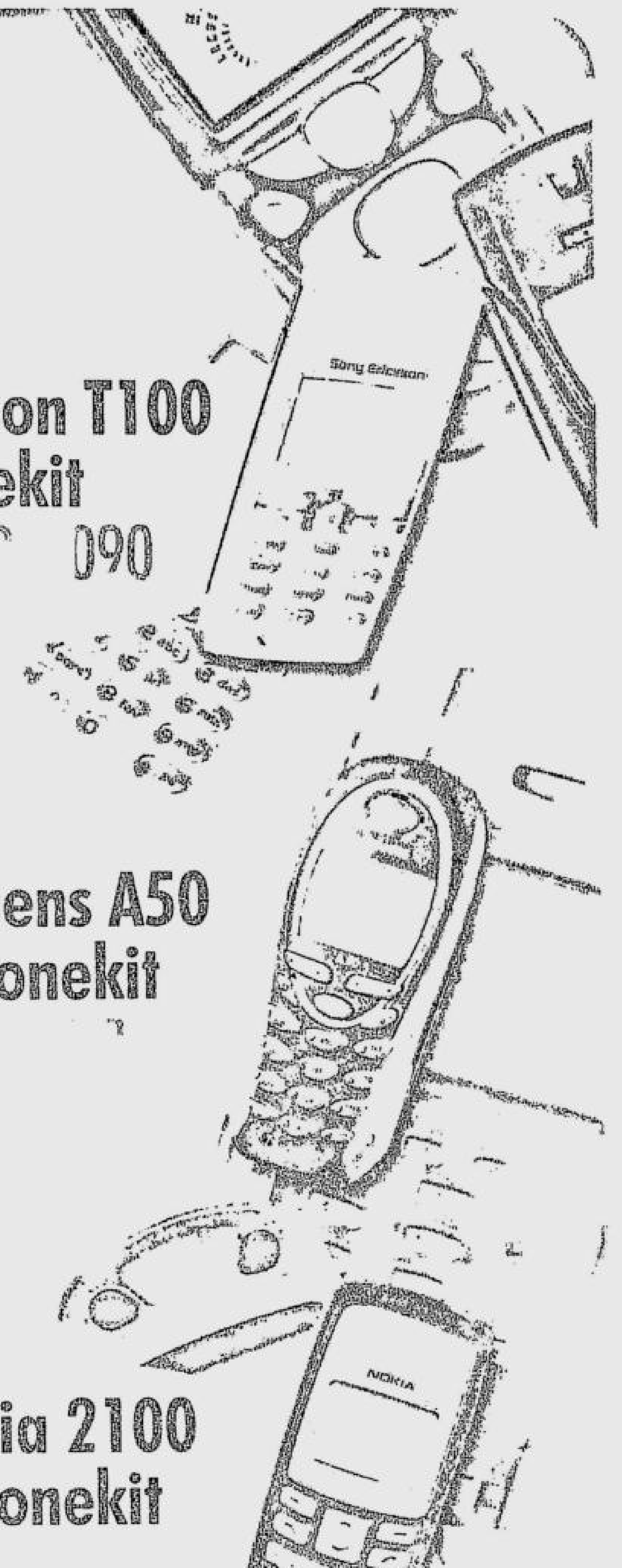

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TOP BRASS. Teresa Herrera having her afternoon chill at Urth Cafe

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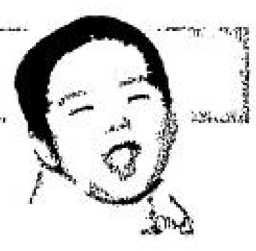
Pinoys rule the world



Tim Yap

I walked into the former Antique Boutique in East Village looking for those ubiquitous vintage trucker caps with graffiti, those popularized by **Marc Jacobs'** '80s trash collection.

Soon enough I was bonding with the Latino-looking graffiti guy, who asked where I was from. "Philippines," I answered nonchalantly. His eyes widened. "Oh my brother! I love Filipinos! Flips!"

He didn't give me time to answer back. He was so hyper, he almost hugged me. "You know what Flip means?" I gave him a blank stare.

"Funky little island people!" He gurgled gleefully. Not mocking at all. "Oh, that's nice," I thought to myself.

Before you run me down for my apparent political passiveness, "Flip" to this generation simply means immigrant Filipino, and the erstwhile negative connotation has shrunk more and more through the years, thanks to many young and hard-working souls who have done their country proud.

La La Land

I spent a few weeks recently bonding with them. I hung out with them, lived with them, partied with them, slept with them.

Gladly, I skipped the MTV Movie Awards' "after-parties" (the first night was **Ashton Kutcher's** and the second, **Puff Daddy's**) to meet up with old Pinoy buddies. Nothing like good ol' Pinoy warmth and humor, something real in the cosmetic-crazy City of Angels. It was a non-stop hop.

I went around LA from one model casting to another, playing *alalay* to *uber* model **Joey Mead**, who is really happy in love in La La Land with Korean American co-model boyfriend **Richard Lee.**

Cal Carrie's top girl **Teresa Herrera** does a lot of TV work in LA. She was supposed to have her own show, until **Rachel Leigh Cook** came along. "They gave the role to her instead 'coz she had a name," she said casually. In the meantime, she said, she was keeping herself busy with acting and dance lessons.

Ruffa's child

Joey, Richard, Teresa and I went together to **Ruffa Gutierrez-Bektas'** baby shower at New Otani Hotel. "Gosh, I look like I swallowed a *pakwan*," gushed the seven-month preggy Ruffa, still as cheer-full as a splash of sunshine.

She got excited over a pair of Gucci baby shoes. Flashback to her Manila wedding, only this time, husband Yilmaz is nowhere.

At the party, talk was focused on Ruffa (naturally, we're Pinoys), **Donita** and **Cher Calvin**, who's doing really well at Fox Studios. We heard she had caused Fox ratings to skyrocket. Attagirl.

Former Disney VJ **Karen Borja** had helped Ruffa organize the party. The day before, I saw singer **Ringgo Marquez** having lunch at the market. He now works at Banana Republic.

I went resto-hopping with G Töngi as she scouted for jobs. Much more than glam, these celebrity Pinoys living in LA displayed humility, patience and pride in hard work.

The Big Apple

In New York, we found **Jessica Guevarra** charming the city with her modern Filipina ways.

Jessica mans the reception desk at Madison's resto Centrolire. Her sister Carla frontlines the posh Tuscan Square on Fifth Avenue. Housemate **Samantha Lopez** (or the artist formerly known as Gracia) shuffles between Serafina's (hot, hot, hot on Wednesdays) and the Hamptons, where everyone, it is said, adores her.

We gate-crashed **Raffy** and **Carmina del Rosario**'s Boston reunion party at their flat in Central Park South, where we spotted even more Pinoys. Last weekend, they all hopped over to Philadelphia on the invitation of **Jigger Antonio**—DJ Tiesto was "on the house"!

PJ Pascual is a stylist at Glamour mag, Geraldine Pangilinan Tellus works as a chef at Bryant Park Hotel, Thea Robles has been holding court at Felix, throwing grand parties and making great connections. The list is endless.

I ended my Pinoy quest at the counter of Philippine Airlines in LAX, where the staff is incredibly nice. Rachel Cruz, Vincent Belardo and Jay Puno made me feel I was already home before I boarded the flight back.

All these Pinoys have given "Flip" yet another meaning altogether.

SISTER ACT. Carla and Jessica Guevarra at Serafina's on the upper west side

JIGGLE IT. Jigger Antonio in New York

FELIX'S CAT. Thea Robles, New York's finest

SINGING IN THE RAIN. Jessica Guevarra horsing around Central Park

hilippine
rlines

FLIGHTS OF FANCY. PAL Los Angeles stewards of hospitality Rachel Cruz, Vincent Belardo and Jay Puno

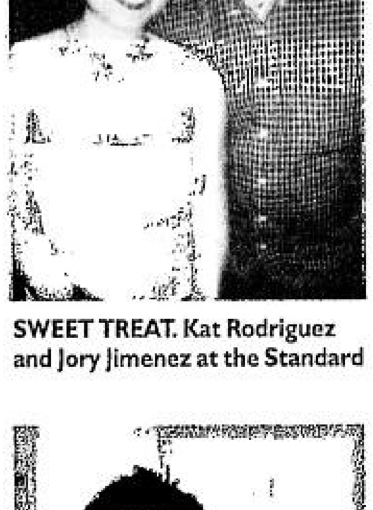
HAPPY TOGETHER. Joey Mead and Richard Lee call LA their home

CHELSEA PICKS. PJ Pascual and Marv Nazareno of Ogilvy

AT HOME with Raffy and Carmina del Rosario

ILONGGA FACTORY. Sam Jison and Yves Kon

A-LIST PINOYORKER. Jay Danan at Sushi Samba in Soho



SWEET TREAT. Kat Rodriguez and Jory Jimenez at the Standard

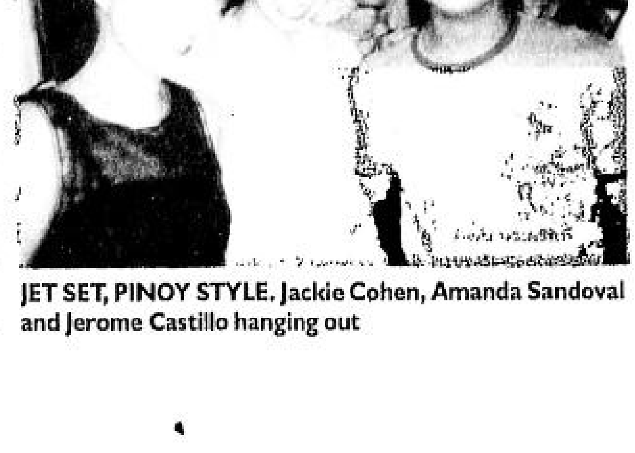
PINAY PRETTY YOUNG THINGS. Stacey Brennan-Punzalan and now New York-based Ana Sicat

KARAOKE QUEEN. Samantha Lopez belts it out at Carmina del Rosario's party

STYLE IN THE CITY. PJ Pascual on a shoot with Glamour mag

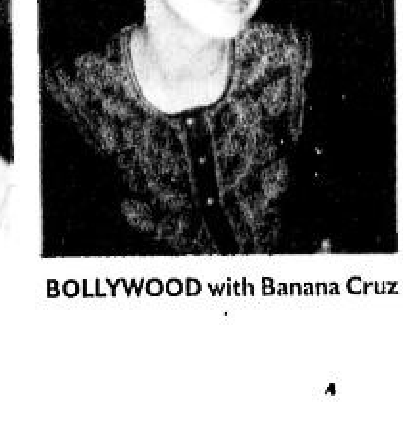
MODEL MANIA. Dottie Benedicto at the Standard Hotel on Sunset Boulevard

HOUSE PARTY. Caloy and Wing cherish their New York moments

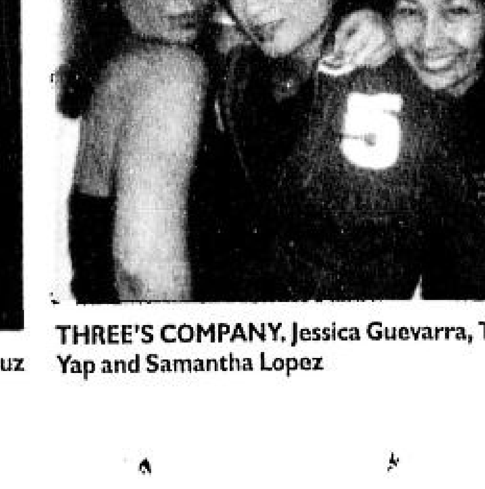


JET SET, PINOY STYLE. Jackie Cohen, Amanda Sandoval and Jerome Castillo hanging out

PHONE PAL Mark Punzalan in New York chill mood



BOLLYWOOD with Banana Cruz



THREE'S COMPANY. Jessica Guevarra, Tim Yap and Samantha Lopez

SATURDAY Special

12 p.m. - Barbie wakes up. She usually turns in at around 4 in the morning, and gets up past noon. "I just got a TV in my room, and it keeps me up at night," she says sheepishly. "I watch movies on video a lot." In an attempt to cut down, she recently threw a blanket over the appliance.

12:45 p.m. - The first thing she does upon waking up is have what she calls her "quiet time," when she reads and reflects on the Bible. But not before brushing her teeth.

'Round the clock with Barbie's Cradle

by
Maul Reyes

24 HOURS

BARBIE Almalbis has this need for speed.

"I can't drive," she says, pouting. "I used to drive in the province, but over here..." she makes a face that pretty much sums up her feelings about deranged driving in the metro. "It's kind of scary."

Fortunately for her, the 26-year-old singer/songwriter of the band Barbie's Cradle may not be getting behind the wheel anytime soon. Her schedule will not permit a single trip to even the nearest driving school.

Having released its third album, Playing In the Fields, under Warner Music, the band has a calendar packed with gigs, promo tours, in-

ROUND/12

3:27 p.m. - Manager Rosanne Hugo double-checks their set list as Wendell looks on.

3:30 p.m. - Barbie tunes her guitar while chatting with Stephanie, a friend and churchmate who has dropped by.

3:45 p.m. RX 93.1 host Rico Robles starts the games, and the band members huddle together for a little prayer before the show.

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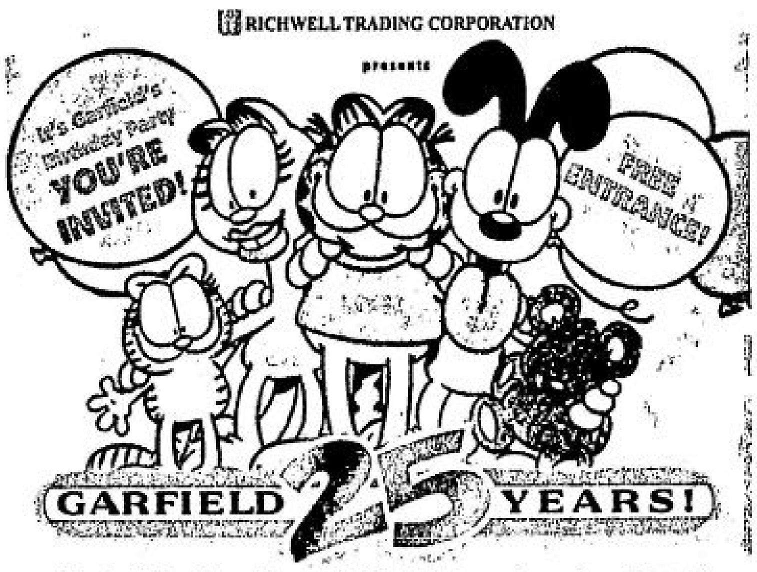

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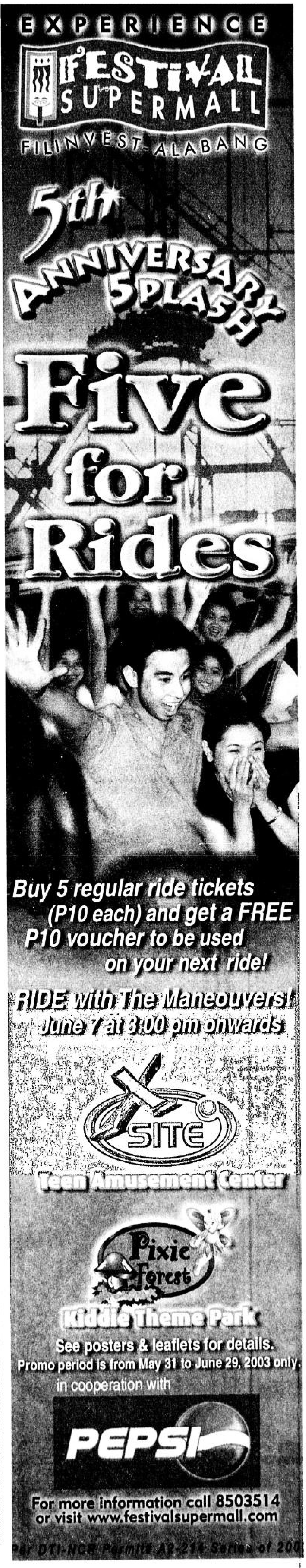

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'Round the clock with Barbie's Cradle

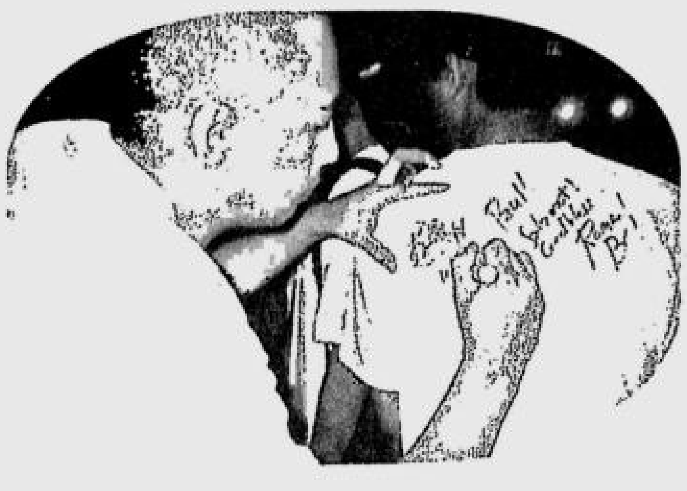
From page 11

terviews, and TV appearances. "All I Need," the latest single off the collection, immediately put the band up on the charts. And the album's bursting with several other hit potentials, such as the heavy "Independence Day," the happy-go-lucky "Bam Bam," and a cover of the Ryan Cayabyab classic, "Limang Dipang Tao."

Barbie's mom has bought her a bed that looks like a car, which she says pretty much fulfills her dream of driving. For now.

Catch the rest of Barbie's Cradle's mall tour: June 28, SM Pampanga; July 4, SM Bacoor; July 10, Glorietta (Album launch); July 12, SM Megamall; July 17, SM Fairview; July 19, SM Megamall. Get a dose of full sets today in Tacloban City, July 3 at Culture Club in Alabang, July 19 at San Mig El Pueblo, July 25 in Bacolod, and July 26 in Iloilo.

4:10 p.m. - The band gives a five-song mini-concert, after which the members sit down to sign autographs for two whole hours.



5:00 p.m. - Fans give the band gifts of CDs, letters, and bookmarks. Wendell does his fair share of shirt signing. The autograph signing continues, with a saleslady asking Barbie to sign a poster . . . while we're in the ladies' room.

7:10 p.m. - We head back to Barbie's for dinner. While we wait for the steaks and chicken, Barbie whips up some peanut butter sandwiches. "How come peanut butter tastes better at someone else's house?" Rommel wonders aloud. While Rommel and I watch Game KNB, and then a cheesy B-movie in the living room, Barbie, her super nanny Tess, and friend Steph get busy rearranging Barbie's room. The family has just moved in, and the girl is determined to straighten it out . . . tonight?

8:44 p.m. The band has another gig at Sanctum in Intramuros tonight. We pile into Rommel's car. Rommel declares his M.O. (*modus operandi*) for the evening: smooth driving.

8:50 p.m. - Barbie slept early last night because she was coming down with a cold. Now she takes some cough medicine at a stoplight. Rommel looks for his Beauty and The Beast soundtrack.

9:15 p.m. - It's raining really hard, and Rommel commits two boo boos: he hits a curve and almost rams into Wendell's car while attempting to to parallel park at the venue. "So much for smooth driving," he mutters. I remind him that there's no such thing in Manila.

9:39 p.m. - Percussion man Wendell waits for the venue to fill up.

9:45 p.m.--. . . and chats with some friends. "Rommel's car is haunted," he says. The conversation turns to ghosts, and soon they're making fun of "supernatural" happenings on TV.

11:01 p.m. - The band starts its first set for tonight, which includes Norah Jones' "Don't Know Why" and Crowded House's "Don't Dream it's Over."

11:26 p.m. - "I love playing at Sanctum," Barbie says. "You can basically do whatever you feel like doing."

12:30 a.m. - By the second set, people were sending requests, which the band entertains.

12:35 a.m. - I ask if she gets any flack for being so open about her religiosity. It's expected, she sighs. "The Bible says you will get persecuted for what you believe in. I won't deny that it hurts, but I figure it happens to everybody."

2:30 a.m.- The show ended an hour ago, and we're back at Barbie's place. Her nightly ritual? "I just wash my face, and if I have put gel in my hair, I wash my hair, too." Of course, she quickly adds, she prays before hitting the sack.

3:01 a.m. - She pops in the CD that a fan gave her earlier and crawls under the sheets. She's got a 12 noon call time for a press conference, and it's time to get some shut-eye.

We can fix this broke-down palace

By Caloy Garchitorena

IN uncertain times, we often turn to people, objects, places, and lucky charms to make our future seem a little more secure. In reality, an infinite number of things that can go wrong in life. The bad news is, there is only one sure-fire solution--in limited supply: Windex.

Take a look at our nation's economy which, because of societal inequity and double standards, is having trouble taking head out of a--, and is fumbling for loose change in shallow pockets while buried chest-deep in the mud of corruption, incompetence, and theft.

Good thing the President knows it is not the right time to proclaim herself as sole savior of the Philippines. Instead, she has aligned herself with many great minds and workers, so as to slowly pave the road--to success for the righteous, and to the gulag for the morally bereft.

Heroic job

One of these great workers is Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, who is has done a heroic job in inspiring the idealistic and encourage-able unemployed youth to replace the incorrigible ignoramuses who had made a jungle out of the streets.

Another highly placed good friend of GMA's is George W.M.D. Bush, whose right-is-might policy makes manufacturers of arms and body bags very happy (and very rich). No wonder superheroes don't come to our planet anymore, what with news of war and misery pushing back stories of rewards brought about by peace and prosperity to the back pages of the dailies.

Most of the heroes that public relations has had extolled of late consist of OFWs, taxi drivers and janitors at the airports, and corporate foundations. It's hard to envision the socioeconomic development of this country past dole-outs, dollar remittances, and a business sector whose primary purpose after all, is to make money, not to give it away.

Wanted ad

It makes me wonder: if an ad came out in the Inquirer for a modern superhero, what would it say? "Wanted: Man/Woman age 35 and below with at least two years experience in changing people's priorities. Must be knowledgeable in balancing national budget, can leap from tall buildings in a single bound. Can perform miracles without seeking reelection. Please lie in wait until snakes in Congress and Senate die."

'If an ad came out in this paper for a superhero, what would it say?'

Let's face it, the world is hopelessly short on heroes because we'd rather watch them perform rather than be counted among them. Shoot, even Hollywood is having trouble finding hit comics and '70s shows to rehash. It has run out of heart-warming stories of personal triumphs and instead has resorted to lofty plots of sweeping the world of bad people.

Quest for truth

Thank heavens the stories aren't always inane. For example, there's The Matrix and that Tom Cruise movie where everybody runs. Real people, ideal worlds, albeit with a taint of deception. The quest in The Matrix, quite obviously, is for truth, the "key." The never stop, they merely rest. They do everything they have to do--upgrade, download. changed their eyeballs--and never worry about the economy or serial killers next door. I mean, these things would always be around. We should generate more time, more energy, and more will to address the most urgent problems in our broken-down (global) society.

That's where I stand.

THE RESIDENCES AT GREENBELT

Offering residents a grand view of the location, environment, and beyond

THE ARCHITECTURAL design for Ayala Land's The Residences at Greenbelt lends residents a grand view of what lies beyond and appreciate on close range its ground environment.

The US-based Architecture International, Ltd. (AI) implemented for the Laguna Tower an asymmetrical design to complement the building's unique height. The tower is all of 48 storeys and is the first of three structures comprising The Residences at Greenbelt.

The Laguna Tower's asymmetrical shape takes advantage of its central location, according to AI's William J. Higgins.

"The tower is sited to maximize panoramic views to the mountains and the Bay beyond and the beautiful green park landscape of the Greenbelt below," Higgins explains. "On the inward side, the tower is curved, creating a softer façade facing the community."

AI is an architectural design firm providing architecture, planning and interior design services to clients in the United States and throughout the world.

The founding principals, John P. Sheehy, FAIA, RIBA, William J. Higgins, AIA, and Sherry Caplan, IIDA, Associate AIA, are former Principals of The Architects Collaborative (TAC), a firm founded by Walter Gropius based on the Bauhaus tradition of modernism and multi-disciplinary collaboration.

With The Residences at Greenbelt, AI found fertile soil in which to use their expertise in the design of complex, urban mixed-use projects.

Their well-known, highly respected projects are recognized for their financial success, their positive market place and community acceptance, and for design excellence and quality. On Ayala Center, they made their mark with the Oakwood apartments.

For The Residences at Greenbelt, AI focuses on expressing the unique environment of Greenbelt itself. Laguna Tower employs natural light and creates a contemporary expression using glass, concrete and metal, adds Higgins.

Extensive use of glass creates a feeling of transparency, lightness, and clearness, mirroring the flowing water that is an essential part of Greenbelt's style. Steel and concrete give the landmark strength and integrity.

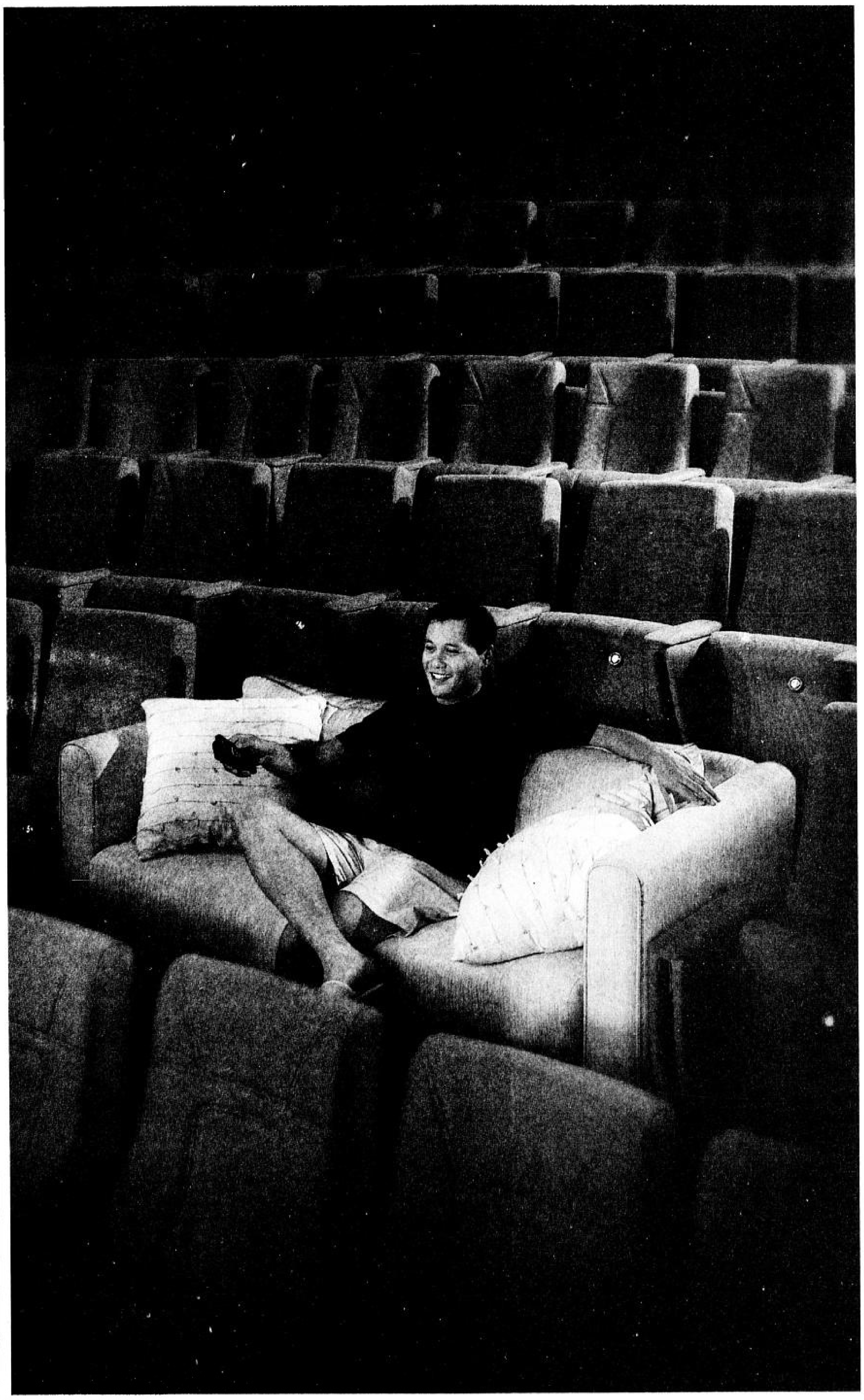
As with the rest of Greenbelt, a garden feel is well-established. "Many units have balconies to allow for an extension of the open interior environment to the outdoors," describes Higgins.

"Garden units and Penthouse units have individual private gardens that allow for a landscaped oasis as part of the unit. All residents of the community will enjoy a lush garden terrace with numerous amenities."

The tower's glass and steel reflects not only the surrounding environment, but the spirit of the Greenbelt lifestyle. "Overall, the architectural design is an expression of lightness, integrity and modern living," says Higgins.

"It's a contemporary design for a contemporary Filipino lifestyle, offering comfortable sky-high living in an urban park environment."

"With its own distinctive character in the neighborhood, Laguna Tower thus gives individual identity to the place where one lives," Higgins concludes.



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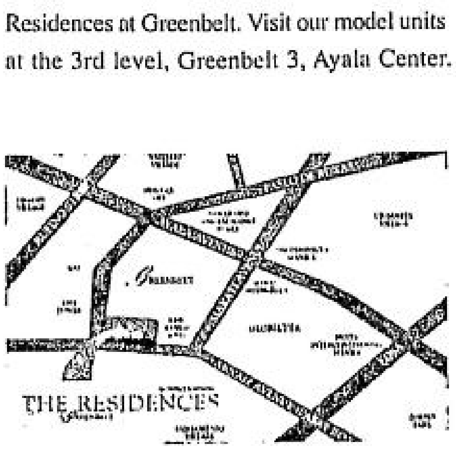
The Residences at Greenbelt. Because you're high on life!

Experience what it's like to live at The Residences at Greenbelt. Visit our model units at the 3rd level, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center.



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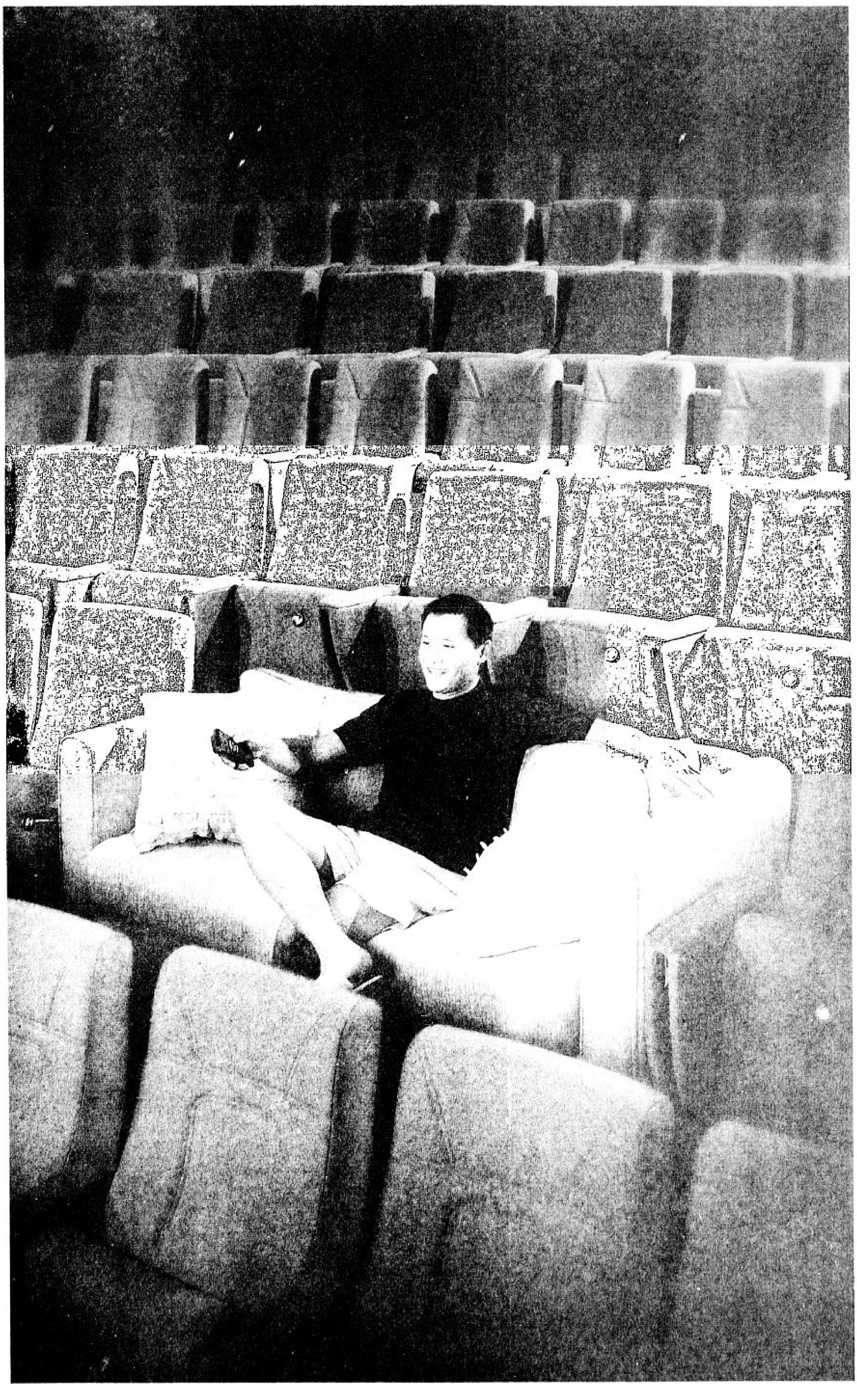

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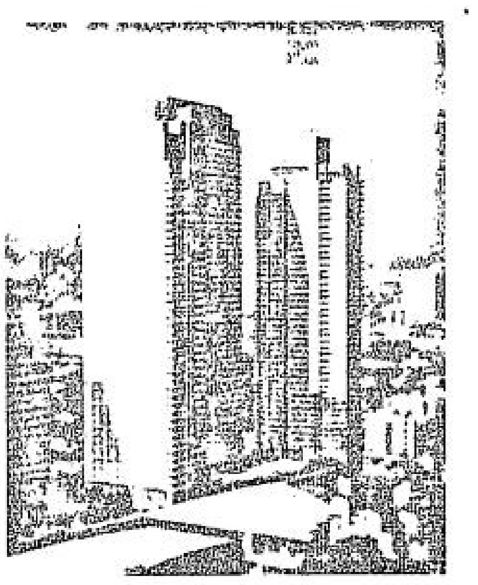

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Reflective elegance through glass at The Residences at Greenbelt

THE RESIDENCES at Greenbelt takes exclusive high-rise living to a new dimension with the elements of glass in distinctive architecture and greens in environment enhancement.

This new landmark from Ayala Land complements the existing Greenbelt development and defines the multi-use qualities of the green sphere at the Makati central business district.

The Laguna Tower, the first of three towers comprising The Residences at Greenbelt, features a curved glass façade that blends with the relaxing yet energizing nature of the garden surroundings at Greenbelt.

Glass also features prominently in the interior designs of the two model units done for The Residences by Budji Layug and WV Coscolluela and Associates.

The translucent, reflective quality of glass brings out a light and elemental feel to the two- and three-bedroom model units. As rendered, the designs are by themselves creative expressions of the myriad possibilities available to discerning unit owners.

Layug approaches the design of his two-bedroom model unit from a unique perspective drawn from the powder room.

"The heart of the design is the powder room," he says. As guest bathroom by the entrance foyer, the powder room may not be the first place one would start when creating elegant interior design, but Layug trusts his concept.

Glass was key. He took down the wall between the foyer and the powder room, and replaced it with a new wall made of translucent glass.

"It gives you a sense of wonder," Layug enthuses.

"It brings in light and space and an effect of lightness and transparency. It dictated the style of the place." Everything else in his design flows from this concept of this translucent, luminous piece of structural art.

In the three-bedroom model unit, designed by WVCA interior designer Marion Coscolluela and her daughter Mara Coscolluela-Quintal, unique touches transform utilitarian features into focal points.

For example, the corridor leading to the second and third bedrooms becomes a showcase for Oriental art. But the door to the master bedroom takes the cake.

The tall door extends the full height of the unit. Floating on wheels, it serves as both partition and entrance, separating the public space of the living and dining room from the private space of the master bedroom suite.

It stands out because of its size and its movement, sliding out from the wall. But Coscolluela took it one step further with glass as medium.

This attention-getting door is sheathed in glass, head to foot. "Glass gives you a different feel, rather than just having a mirror, or a solid wall," Coscolluela-Quintal explains. The effect is one of multiple surfaces, of simplicity and openness, yet filled with complexity and elegance.

A sliding, floor-to-ceiling jewel, the bedroom door becomes the prize example of all the translucent elements that recur throughout the design.

With these model units, Ayala Land underscores the ability of The Residences at Greenbelt to make real the dream of living where everything is tasteful, reflective of style and the closest one can get to nature in an urban landscape.

The Residences at Greenbelt is a quality rendition of being contemporary Filipino.

LAYUG approaches the design of the 2-bedroom model unit using 'the powder room'.

COSCOLLUELA'S unique touches transform the 3-bedroom model unit's utilitarian features into focal points.

Endless, exciting possibilities spun in the 'jewel' of Ayala Center

GREENBELT offers endless possibilities. It's a destination more than a place to shop, a stage that's more about being there than anything else. The green center of a bustling city within the city, this ever-changing park with its circle of malls can be many things to many people, while remaining what it is: the jewel of Ayala Center.

There's a lifestyle about Greenbelt, something that sets it apart from other places. The malls, stores, restaurants and theaters speak of a discriminating taste for life, something that enjoys variety and quality in simultaneous doses. Yet its very openness allows all walks of life to pass through its center. The trees, the fountains, are free to everyone who comes by. It's a combination of opposites without tension; tension is the last thing to expect from Greenbelt.

With The Residences at Greenbelt, Ayala Land, Inc., the nation's most respected developer, adds a new dimension to the Greenbelt lifestyle: home. Home starts with the exclusive Laguna Tower, the first of the three residential condominiums that will rise on Esperanza Drive right across Greenbelt 2. It will have a connection to the rest of Greenbelt and Ayala Center via walkways that lift the pedestrian experience into world-class territory.

The Laguna Tower will feature two- and three-bedroom units of at least 118 square meters of living space. Wall-to-wall windows, luxurious baths, walk-in closets, and quality materials, define a standard of living that's a cut above. At the ground level, more shops and restaurants complete the Greenbelt scene, and an ingenious motorcourt will bring the concept of the town square indoors-and into the twenty-first century. With Ayala Land's experience at delivering high-quality residential properties to faithful and discerning customers, The Residences will give everyone who already lives in Greenbelt a perfectly-suited place to call home.

What sort of people are these? They could be extroverts. An up-and-coming young businessman and his wife, the kind of young couple who work hard so they can play even harder. Greenbelt is their back yard and The Residences is their launching pad. He has business lunches there, cutting the deals that enrich all sides, enjoying the lively atmosphere that vibrates on a bright breezy day. She likes coming home from work for a good workout and a brisk walk. They meet at a café, and then ride the elevator up to their residence, to get ready for a night on the town.

Now dressed down-or dressed up-they head out to dinner at the upscale restaurants, before heading to a club, or bar. Coming home, they watch the throng in the Greenbelt 3 patio, as blue and violet and lavender lights strobe and flash among the pools. Nobody is a stranger, only a friend they've yet to meet.

These people could be socialites. A mother lives with her family. The kids off to school, she brings her youngest to The Residences' kiddie pool to play, before meeting her friends for lunch. She strolls down the walkway into Greenbelt 2, where the elevator takes her down to the garden table where her friends await. A salad, ma'am? White wine? Lunch can take hours, and it's worth every minute.

Inside the malls she strolls with her friends, taking in the new fashions from Europe and the States, and the best of home-made artistry. They don't really need to buy anything, but oftentimes they do, on impulse. It's being there, being together, the laughter and the camaraderie that counts. She learns about the next society event. How fortunate that she lives above the heart of Makati - where every event is right next door.

The Greenbelt lifestyle can also suit that of a thoughtful fellow sitting in his favorite café for hours each day, working on a book, a movie, a piece of art. He doesn't have to be part of the crowd, and he likes it that way. From his home in The Residences, he has a refuge for his thoughts and work, but still within the center of the city and all the ideas and observations it can offer.

On weekdays, he watches the people come for lunch and stay for coffee. Evenings he watches lovers sitting under the trees, listening to music, many of them marveling at Greenbelt. They don't live there. He does, and he likes how lucky he is. Sundays, he stands outside the teeming chapel, listening to old words and feeling them in his soul. Greenbelt's theaters, shops, and clubs offer him a constant stream of ideas and entertainment he can visit in his own time and on his own terms. It's his life, and he likes it that way.

They all have different lives, and they all like it that way. Living at Greenbelt gives them that freedom. Extrovert, introvert, socialite, at Greenbelt they have their own grand garden in which to thrive. The Residences at Greenbelt gives those who already know the Greenbelt lifestyle, to go all out. Take full advantage of endless possibilities. Find out just what could be....if you live at The Residences at Greenbelt.

Visit our model units at 3rd Level, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center. For inquiries, call 848-5000.

At the same sphere where malls, stores, restaurants, theaters and recreational sites speak of a discriminating taste, The Residences at Greenbelt provides more life opportunities for people who further want to define their lives with their own unique choices

Movers and shakers join The Green Circle in 3-event launch

AYALA Land, Inc. invited the movers and shakers of society to join The Green Circle with the three-event launch of the company's latest Makati development, The Residences at Greenbelt.

The Green Circle is that set of individuals whose achievements, position, taste, and talent set them apart from the norm. They are those who define a lifestyle, not follow it. International in experience yet decidedly Filipino, they see The Residences as a place tailor-made to suit their needs and desires.

Last June 5, the members of the management committee of Ayala Land headed by President Francisco Licuanan, together with the project team and other guests met the press for the opening of the model units located at the third level of Greenbelt 3 (across D'Marks Pizza). The model units reproduce in detail the two- and three-bedroom single-level spaces to be available in Laguna Tower. With floor space starting at 118 square meters, each provides prospective buyers a tangible example of what The Residences experience can be. The model units, featuring interior design by Budji Layug and Marion Coscolluela, reflect the simplicity and comfort of contemporary Asian style. In a brief ceremony, the model units were blessed by Fr. Ray of Greenbelt's Sto. Niño de Paz Parish.

The event continued at Tavern on the Square at the second level of Greenbelt 3, where Ayala Land SVPs Angela dV Lacson and Tristan Dela Rosa presented the concept and details of the new development; including the The Green Circle, which was the theme of the launch events. The project's Senior Division Manager, Kate Ilagan and Business Development Manager, Amir Precilla enlightened the members of the press on their inquiries about the project. Also present were Ayala Land SVP Miriam Katigbak, VP Marivic Añonuevo, and VP Emilio Tumbocon.

A week later, on June 10, the merchants of Ayala Center were introduced to The Residences at Greenbelt with a cocktail event at Ground Floor Lobby of Greenbelt 3. Welcomed by host Ces Drilon and again by ALI SVP Angela dV Lacson, the guests got their first look at the project. Many were invited to ascend to the third floor for a viewing of the model units. As Lacson remarked, with a ground floor of shops and restaurants and a clientele-The Green Circle-marked by elegant and refined tastes, The Residences represent a significant business opportunity for the guests. Many took the opportunity to purchase units that night. Entertainment was provided by mix artist Mon Maramba and his live band and singer Paolo Santos.

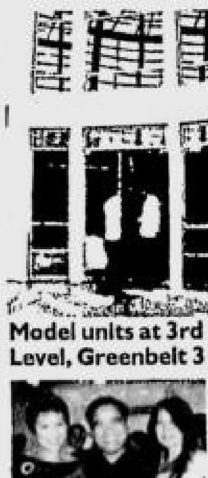
The following night, June 11th, the Grand Launch of The Residences at Greenbelt marked the first gathering of The Green Circle itself. Ayala Land invited guests from some of the company's most loyal customers, the movers and shakers of Filipino business, politics, and society. Speakers were Ayala Land President Francisco H. Licuanan and Makati Mayor and honored guest, Jejomar Binay, whose remarks congratulated Ayala Land for its continuing commitment to the development of Makati.

Honored at the event with an onstage presentation were Ben Chan, Dean Dayao, Anton Huang, Margarita Fores, Tina Maristela Ocampo, and Louie Ysmael. Anton Huang was represented by Mike Huang.

Throughout the evening, the guests took the chance to tour the model units at the third level. Real time sales updates for The Laguna Tower, a model of which dominated the center platform of the lobby, showed how eager many were to join The Green Circle.

Singer Bituin Escalante performed several songs at the event, while Mon Maramba and his band returned to provide the music. Like the merchants' night launch, Ces Drilon served as host.

Want to live in Greenbelt? Call us and inquire at 848-5000.



Model units at 3rd Level, Greenbelt 3

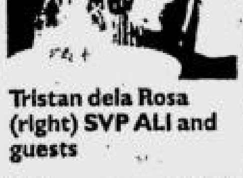
Marion Coscolluela, interior designer of 3-bedroom unit

From left, Royal Pineda from Budji Layug, Tristan dela Rosa, SVP Ayala Land, Angela Lacson, SVP Ayala Land, Inc., Mr. and Mrs. Coscolluela, Francisco Licuanan, President, Ayala Land and Marivic Añonuevo, VP Ayala Land.

MERCHANTS' NIGHT
From left, Ces Drilon, host, CJ Jesena, Commercial Centers Group, Mary Ann Tinio, CCG Merchant

Cua family of Pho Hoa / Temple Bar

From left, Angela Lacson, SVP ALI, Ricky Toledo and Chito Vijandre, CCG Merchants and Miriam Katigbak, SVP ALI



Tristan dela Rosa (right) SVP ALI and guests

GRAND LAUNCH
From left, Honorable Mayor Jejomar Binay with Ayala Land President, Francisco Licuanan

From left, Ben Chan, Dean Dayao and Margarita Fores, CCG merchants

From left, Ces Drilon, Francisco Licuanan, Angela Lacson and Mayor Binay

From left, Mike Huang, Tina Maristela Ocampo and Louie Ysmael, CCG merchants

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Your kind of people. Your kind of place.

YOUNG URBAN ACHIEVERS Success comes early. You are at your brightest. Time to build your future.

For young urban achievers, this is where it all begins. Verdana Homes is truly your dream home come true. A serene and secure community that's ideal for raising kids. A backdrop for many happy family memories to come. A milestone for your continuing quest for success.

Verdana Homes
BY COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS INC.
An AYALA Company

For the young, successful Urbanite who simply can't help but be at the center of everything, The Columns rises. Three towers that will rise at the corner of Ayala and Gil Puyat in Makati, serving as a relaxing oasis in the middle of the metropolis. "Live a few steps from everything."

THE COLUMNS
AYALA AVENUE
BY COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS INC.
An AYALA Company

Ayala Land's first cluster-community development in Visayas-Mindanao, Plantazionne Verdana Homes in Negros Occidental is a new concept in community living. It offers affordable resort living close to the city, encouraging family and community relationships. All in a safe and warm environment with all its convenient features and amenities.

Verdana Homes plantazionne
By an AYALA Company

AT YOUR PRIME Each day seems better. The future keeps getting brighter. It's time for bigger things.

Right at the center, in the quiet side of town. Montgomery Place can't be described any better. Envisioned to be a quiet neighborhood of quaint rows of townhouses designed along the genteel lines of the American South for early nesters. A pocket of green space within the busy city, a short drive away from Greenhills, Diliman, and Makati, nothing is too far away.

MONTGOMERY PLACE
An AYALA Community

Mediterranean living right in the heart of Quezon City. Located near two of the country's premiere universities, full nesters will find this an ideal setting for their families to grow. Following a cluster-concept, it presents a novel approach to community living by grouping homes around distinct open spaces to encourage interaction and good relationships among neighbors.

Ferndale Homes
An AYALA Community

The look. The feel. The space. The ease of modern living. Cosmopolitan, yet comfortable. It's the life and style every successful and mobile professional deserves. It's a premiere home that sits right within Legaspi Village, in the middle of Makati's Business District. A home above it all.

one legazpi park
An AYALA Community

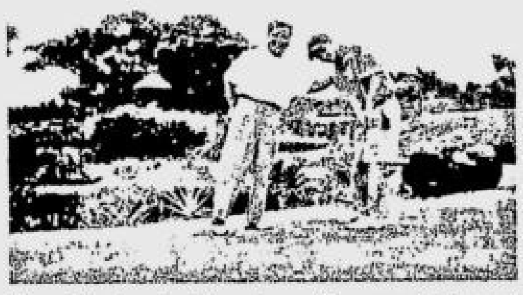
Experience the relaxed comforts of country living at Hacienda Sta. Monica. An hour and a half's drive away from Makati, this expansive development in the cool and relaxing environment of Lipa is ideal for spacious weekend vacation homes. With in-house agricultural experts to help greenhorn farmers, this is first class living in true haciendero tradition.

HACIENDA STA. MONICA
An AYALA Community

AT YOUR PEAK The hard work. The long hours. Now's the time to reap the rewards.

What could probably be the last vast patch of greenery in its area, Ayala Hillside Estates is truly a treasure. Imagine, 23 hectares of rolling terrain, meandering the Capitol Hills Golf & Country Club. Just a drive away from the best schools and the city's conveniences, Ayala Hillside Estates offers an instant escape from the busy city.

AYALA Hillside Estates



Set amidst breathtaking views of Laguna de Bay and Mt. Makiling is Ayala Greenfield Estates. A weekend getaway, or a home away from home, it is a world where the sound, smell and feel of nature embraces you. Each lot comes with a share at the Golf & Leisure Club with a modest activation fee. Now, weekends will never be the same again.

AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES
An AYALA South Community

Ayala Westgrove Heights is envisioned to be the next Big Thing. It's a magnificent and sweeping expanse of over 400 hectares of groves, rolling hills and valleys blanketed by thousands of mango trees. This complete, high-end subdivision is situated in Silang, Cavite near prime schools. It's truly the land where memories can grow and love can last for generations.

AYALA Westgrove Heights

A three-tower premium residential community within the prestigious Greenbelt Commercial Center. Designed to enhance the vibrant and dynamic lifestyle of the country's "movers", The Residences at Greenbelt offers all the comforts of home and the amenities of condominium living. It offers the convenience to enjoy the country's premiere dining, shopping and entertainment destination at any given time.

An AYALA Community
THE RESIDENCES
AT GREENBELT

The premiere residential address in Negros, Ayala North Point is a community following the village concept with a central core that will house retail establishments, a civic center and a school. Designed to work with its environment rather than altering it, Ayala North Point rises in harmony with its natural surroundings like river gorges and verdant fields.

AYALA North Point

An Ayala residential estate in a city ranked as one of the best in Asia, Ayala Heights Cebu is a high-end subdivision nestled in a scenic mountain ridge with year-round cool climate. This highland retreat within the city promises the comforts of home and an investment opportunity that is distinctly Ayala. A masterplanned community, Ayala Heights Cebu expertly blends the best of modern facilities and the rugged outdoors.

AYALA Heights Cebu

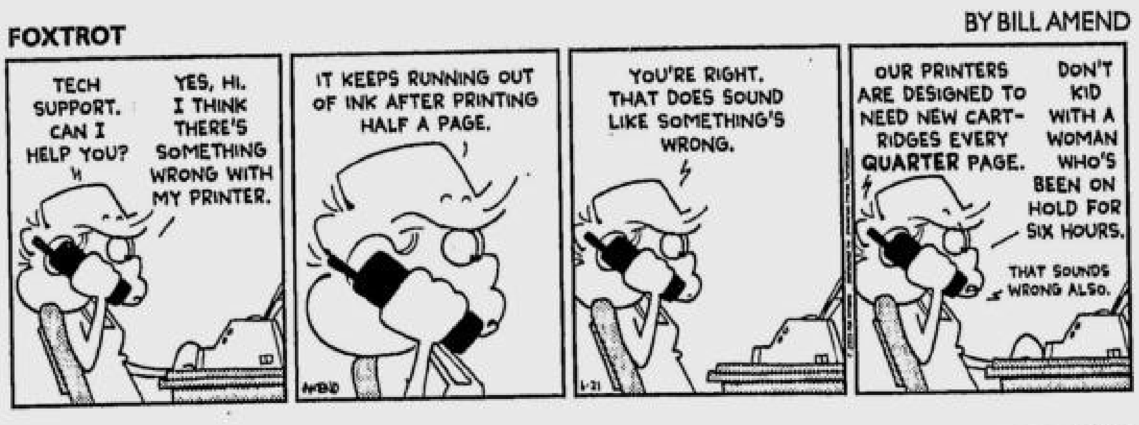
AYALA
COMMUNITIES

Each square meter is a store of value for the future

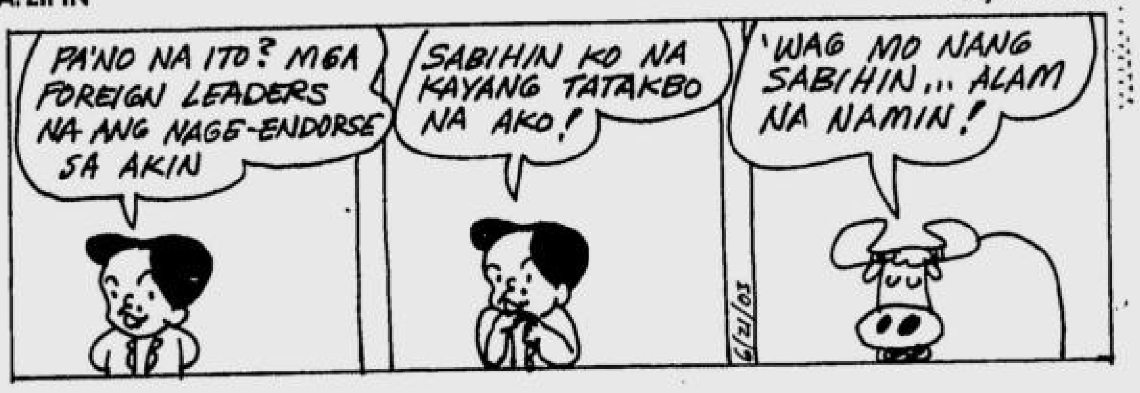
Call 848-5000 • e-mail: ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph • Log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph

AYALA LAND, INC.

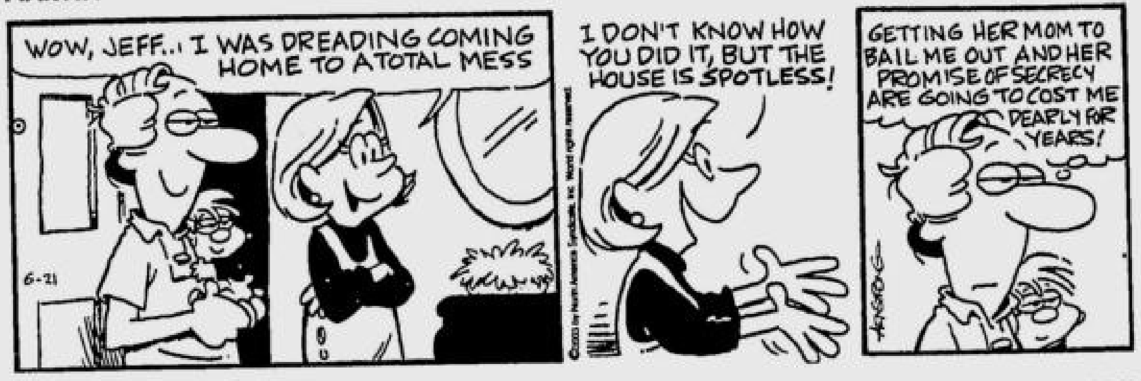
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


TECH SUPPORT. CAN I HELP YOU?
YES, HI. I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY PRINTER.
IT KEEPS RUNNING OUT OF INK AFTER PRINTING HALF A PAGE.
YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT DOES SOUND LIKE SOMETHING'S WRONG.
OUR PRINTERS ARE DESIGNED TO NEED NEW CARTRIDGES EVERY QUARTER PAGE.
DON'T KID WITH A WOMAN WHO'S BEEN ON HOLD FOR SIX HOURS.
THAT SOUNDS WRONG ALSO.

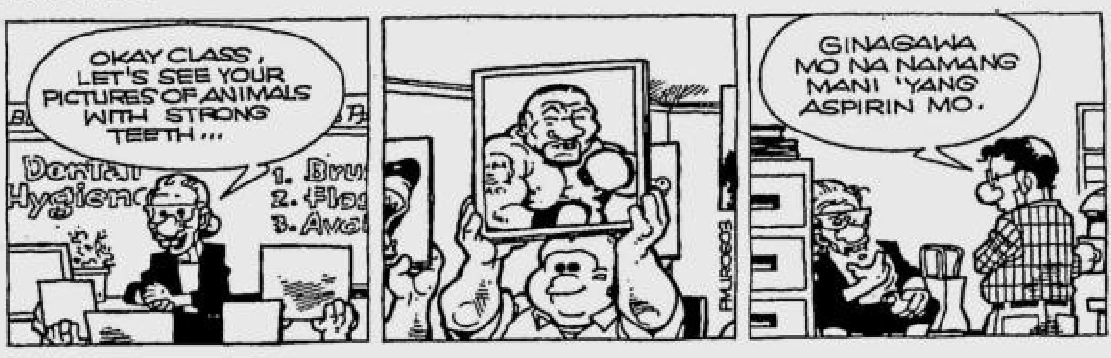
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


PA'NO NA ITO? MGA FOREIGN LEADERS NA ANG NAGE-ENDORSE SA AKIN
SABIHIN KO NA KAYANG TATAKBO NA AKO!
'WAG MO NANG SABIHIN... ALAM NA NAMIN!
6/21/03

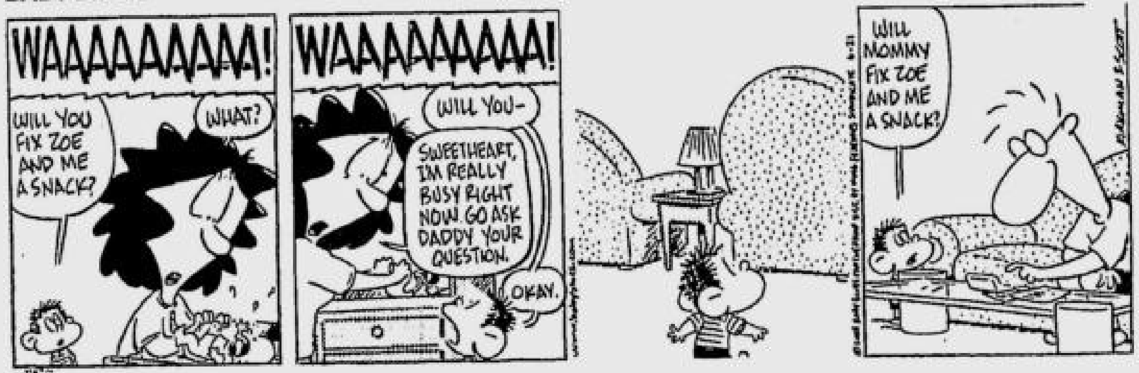
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WOW, JEFF... I WAS DREADING COMING HOME TO A TOTAL MESS
6-21
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DID IT, BUT THE HOUSE IS SPOTLESS!
GETTING HER MOM TO BAIL ME OUT AND HER PROMISE OF SECRECY ARE GOING TO COST ME DEARLY FOR YEARS!

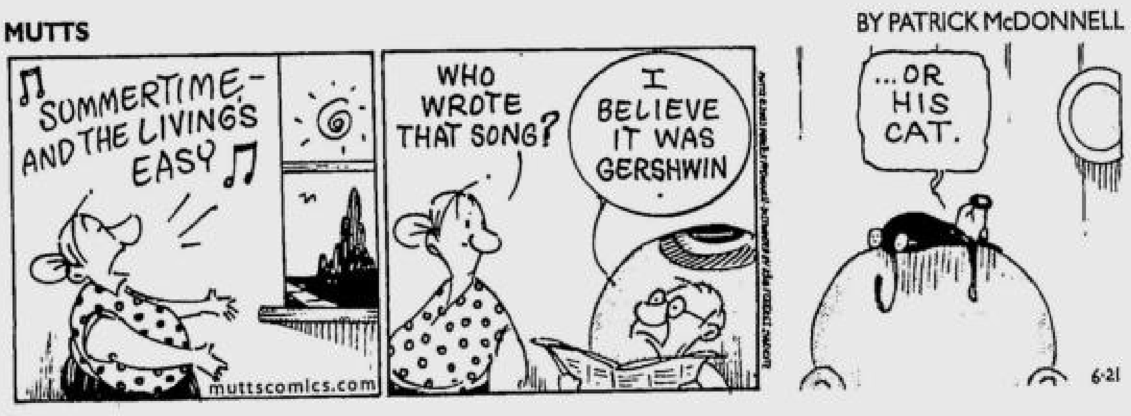
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR.


OKAY CLASS, LET'S SEE YOUR PICTURES OF ANIMALS WITH STRONG TEETH...
Dental Hygiene
1. Bru
2. Flos
3. Avoi
GINAGAWA MO NA NAMANG MANI 'YANG ASPIRIN MO.

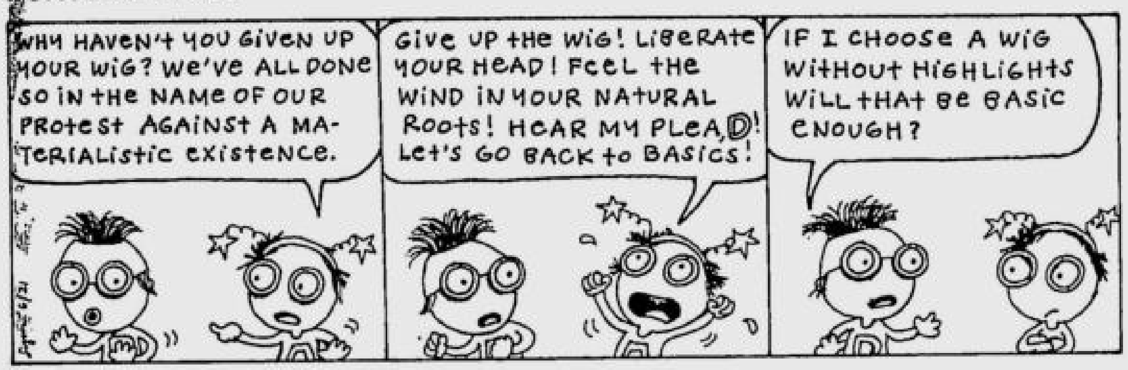
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WAAAAAAAAA!
WILL YOU FIX ZOE AND ME A SNACK?
WHAT?
WAAAAAAAAA!
WILL YOU-
SWEETHEART, I'M REALLY BUSY RIGHT NOW. GO ASK DADDY YOUR QUESTION.
OKAY.
WILL MOMMY FIX ZOE AND ME A SNACK?

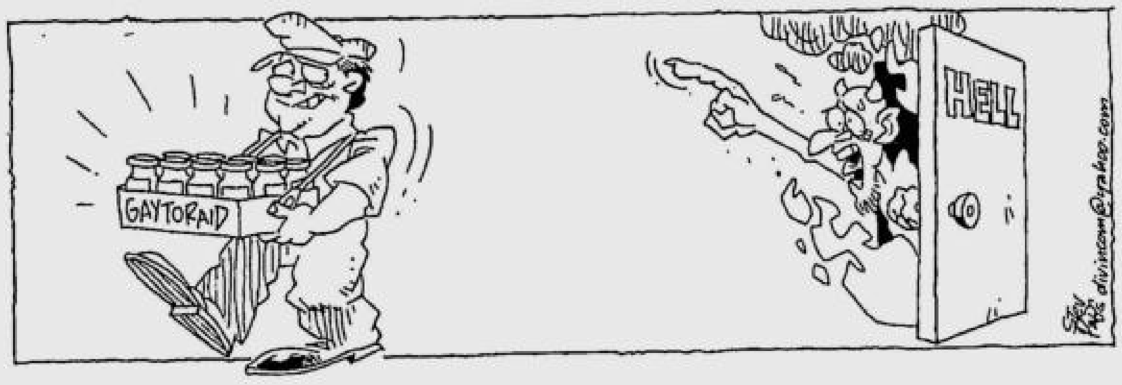
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SUMMERTIME-AND THE LIVING'S EASY
muttscomics.com
WHO WROTE THAT SONG?
I BELIEVE IT WAS GERSHWIN
...OR HIS CAT.
6-21

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHY HAVEN'T YOU GIVEN UP YOUR WIG? WE'VE ALL DONE SO IN THE NAME OF OUR PROTEST AGAINST A MATERIALISTIC EXISTENCE.
GIVE UP THE WIG! LIBERATE YOUR HEAD! FEEL THE WIND IN YOUR NATURAL ROOTS! HEAR MY PLEA, D! LET'S GO BACK TO BASICS!
IF I CHOOSE A WIG WITHOUT HIGHLIGHTS WILL THAT BE BASIC ENOUGH?

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


GAYTORAID
HELL
divinecom@yahoo.com

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You want to touch, taste, smell and feel all aspects of life. You drink in your experiences of the world. You are sensual, sexual and intellectual. Invariably, you march to your own drummer. Your enthusiasm and drive to succeed bring you accomplishments in life. Significant changes take place this year. (Perhaps as noteworthy as in 1994.)

Birthdate of: Prince William, British royal; Juliette Lewis, actress; Jean-Paul Sartre, philosopher.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You can expect your focus on home and family to increase now and in the next few weeks. This is an excellent time to think about real estate matters, as well.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is not the time to sit at home. Get out and hustle! Short trips, conversations and time spent with siblings keep you busy in the next few weeks.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Without question, your mind turns to money—spending it and earning it. In the month ahead, you will work out new and fresh approaches to your cash flow.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The Sun enters your sign today. It's your turn now to restore, replenish and re-energize yourself for the rest of the year. Congratulations!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You must respect your need for rest and relaxation. You cannot be all things to all people. Despite the demands of your lifestyle, try to steal more solitude just for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your popularity rating soars in the next few weeks! People want to be in your company. By all means, accept all invitations and enjoy yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): For a number of reasons, you are suddenly in the limelight for the next few weeks. People notice you! Because of this, you must dress the part (as well you know how).

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Expect to be involved in the immediate future with publishing, legal matters and everything related to travel and foreign countries. You want to broaden your horizons.

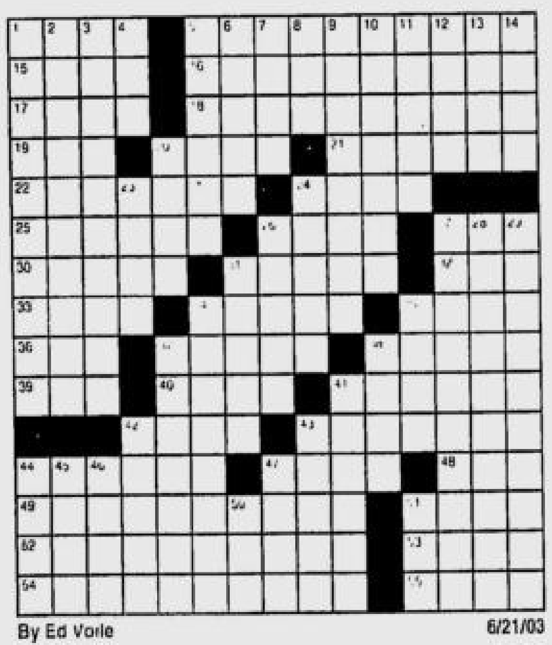
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): In the month ahead, your focus is on matters related to insurance, wills, estates and everything that you share with someone else. It's also important to define who is responsible for what.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You need more rest now, because the Sun is directly opposite your sign. However, this signals a month where conversations with partners are significant.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You have a strong desire to get organized now. Act on this! Clean up your act both at work and at home. (You'll love yourself for it later.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Love, romance and playful escapes are yours for the next month. Ooh la la! Do anything that allows you to express your creative self.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Ed Voile
Gillette, WY

6/21/03

ACROSS

1 Detonator cord
5 Ethiopian capital
15 Beginning of fairy tales
16 Belgian waterway
17 Actual
18 Media rep
19 Blowup letters?
20 Dregs
21 Flashy or jaunty
22 Gallery display
24 Decree
25 South Dakota's capital
26 Impatient exclamation
27 Mata Hari or 007
30 Bitterly pungent
31 Kirby of "City Slickers"
32 Easy dessert?
33 Newsman Huntley
34 Windmill blades
35 Kitchen utensils
36 One of those girls
37 Web locations
38 Gem surface
39 Harris and Wynn
40 Former husbands
41 Dahl or Golonka
42 Devitalizes
43 Rip van Winkle, e.g.
44 Mashing tool
47 Small valley
48 Roulette bet
49 Type of office ripe for nepotism
51 Whiskey spritz
52 Irish playwright
53 With skill
54 Tranquility
[illegible] forces

DOWN

1 1948 John Wayne movie
2 Without added nutrients
3 Sprinklers
4 Sniggler's prey
5 Current unit
6 Bo or John
7 Membership fees
8 NASA outpost
9 Meetings
10 Plains tribe
11 Intolerant person
12 Profess
13 Stooped
14 Pretentiously creative
20 Manor's proprietor
23 Legal document
24 Sports infractions
26 Uses a crowbar
27 Exploratory vehicle
28 Fir leaf
29 Bygone times
31 "Psycho" motel
34 Maugham novel, "The Moon and __"
35 Lose color
37 Fur seal's cousin
38 Dislodge
41 Bowling lanes
42 "Platoon" director
43 Rescues
44 While away
45 Fencing sword
46 Go a few rounds
47 Tool for gripping
50 Sunbather's objective
51 Age-induced gravitation

Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	L	I	M	S	■	M	E	R	I	T	■	J	A	B
I	S	A	A	C	■	O	R	O	N	O	■	A	L	L
P	U	N	C	H	C	L	O	C	K	S	■	B	T	U
■	■	■	■	E	A	T	S	■	■	S	O	B	E	R
D	E	C	A	M	P	S	■	H	A	U	L	E	R	S
I	M	A	G	E	S	■	C	O	P	P	E	R	■	■
T	A	P	E	S	■	T	O	M	E	S	■	W	A	C
K	I	T	E	■	F	A	M	E	D	■	R	O	N	A
A	I	A	■	G	E	L	I	D	■	J	A	C	K	S
■	■	I	T	A	L	I	C	■	C	O	C	K	L	E
V	A	N	I	L	L	A	■	M	O	N	E	Y	E	D
O	S	H	E	A	■	■	S	A	M	E	■	■	■	■
I	T	O	■	H	O	T	C	R	O	S	S	B	U	N
L	E	O	■	A	R	I	A	S	■	E	R	A	S	E
A	R	K	■	D	E	P	T	H	■	S	I	N	E	W

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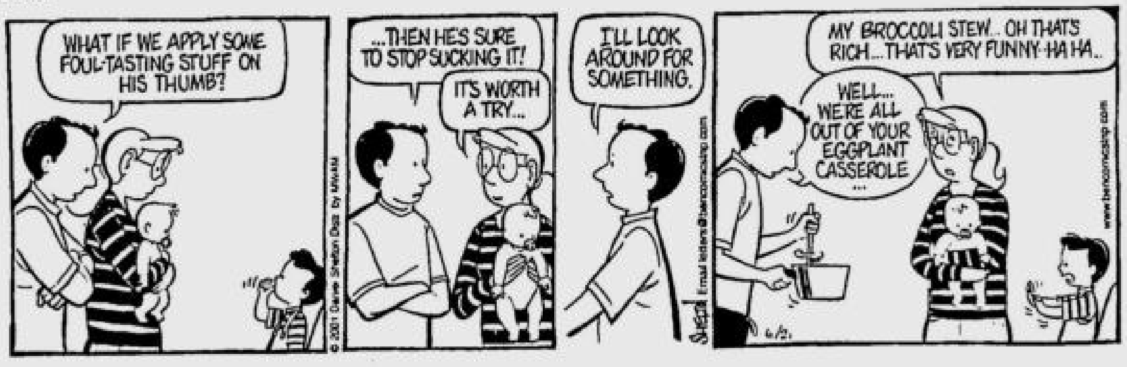
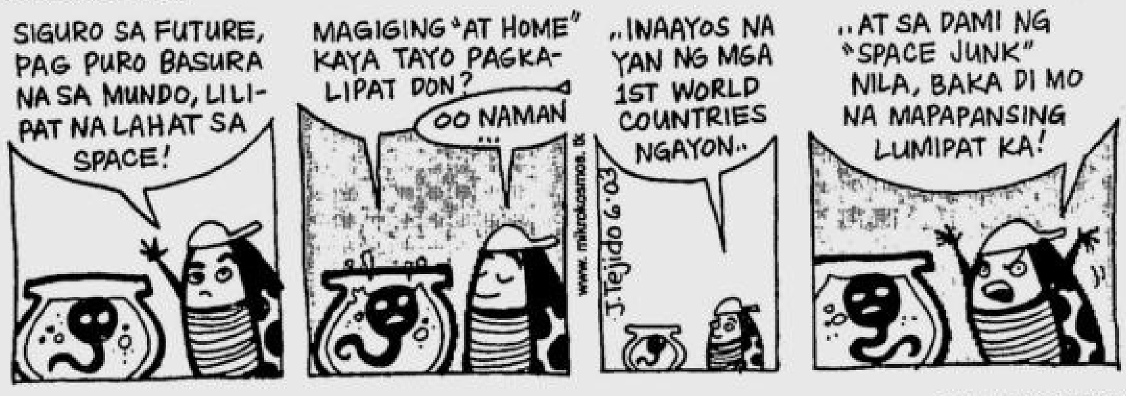
6/21/03

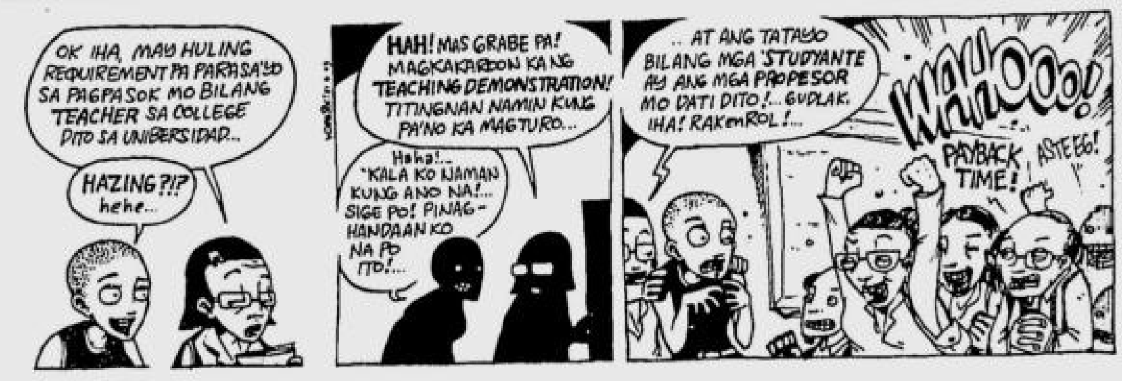
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT IF WE APPLY SOME FOUL-TASTING STUFF ON HIS THUMB?
...THEN HE'S SURE TO STOP SUCKING IT!
IT'S WORTH A TRY...
I'LL LOOK AROUND FOR SOMETHING.
MY BROCCOLI STEW... OH THAT'S RICH... THAT'S VERY FUNNY-HA HA..
WELL... WE'RE ALL OUT OF YOUR EGGPLANT CASSEROLE ...

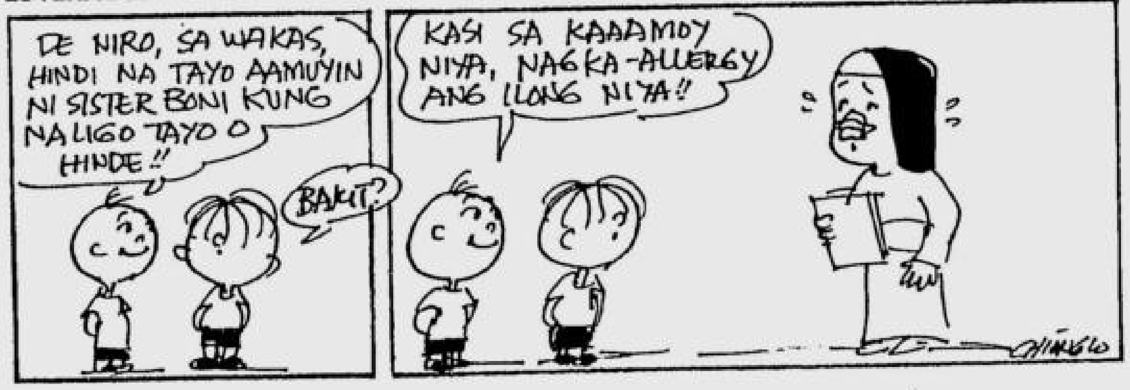
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SIGURO SA FUTURE, PAG PURO BASURA NA SA MUNDO, LILIPAT NA LAHAT SA SPACE!
MAGIGING "AT HOME" KAYA TAYO PAGKALIPAT DON?
OO NAMAN ...
..INAAYOS NA YAN NG MGA 1ST WORLD COUNTRIES NGAYON..
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J. Tejido 6'03
..AT SA DAMI NG "SPACE JUNK" NILA, BAKA DI MO NA MAPAPANSING LUMIPAT KA!

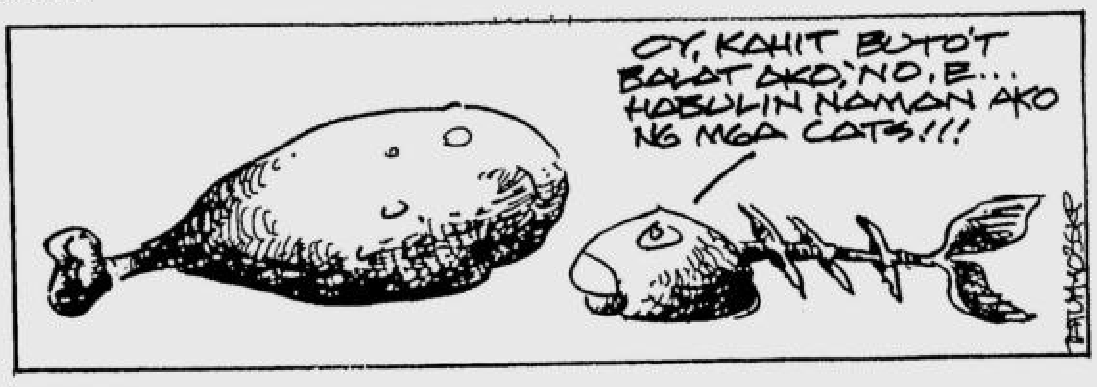
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


OK IHA, MAY HULING REQUIREMENT PA PARA SA'YO SA PAGPASOK MO BILANG TEACHER SA COLLEGE DITO SA UNIBERSIDAD...
HAZING?!? hehe...
HAH! MAS GRABE PA! MAGKAKAROON KA NG TEACHING DEMONSTRATION! TITINGNAN NAMIN KUNG PA'NO KA MAGTURO...
Haha!.. 'KALA KO NAMAN KUNG ANO NA!.. SIGE PO! PINAGHANDAAN KO NA PO ITO!...
.. AT ANG TATAYO BILANG MGA 'STUDYANTE' AY ANG MGA PROPESOR MO DATI DITO!... GUDLAK, IHA! RAKenROL!...
WAHOOO!
PAYBACK TIME!
ASTEEG!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, SA WAKAS, HINDI NA TAYO AAMUYIN NI SISTER BONI KUNG NALIGO TAYO O HINDE!!
BAKIT?
KASI SA KAAAMOY NIYA, NAGKA-ALLERGY ANG ILONG NIYA!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, KAHIT BUTO'T BALAT AKO, NO, E... HABULIN NAMAN AKO NG MGA CATS!!!

MOVING with the MUSIC

By Wendell Garcia

"LOUNGE."

How many times have you heard the word pop up in the past year?

You may have noticed it used to refer to music, atmosphere, specific places, or even drinks. What is this lounge phenomenon and where did it come from?

Let's take a trip to the past together and find out.

A good place to start would be in the 1920s, during the Prohibition period in the United States. The US government had outlawed the sale of alcohol and anything with an alcoholic content of .05 percent. But people thirsty for the good life were out to spend money on parties, during which they liked to get tipsy. So the alcohol ban gave birth to an underground industry. Spirits, mostly whiskey, were smuggled in, even over the border from Canada. The illegal trade became so rampant, it was uncontrollable.

Then came the "speak-easies" boom. Speak-easies were illegal bars that mushroomed across America during the same Prohibition period. These bars replaced the saloons of old, and by 1925 there were over 100,000 in New York City alone. Imagine the parties!

Eventually the illegal liquor business fell under the control of organized gangs, which often overpowered the authorities, who ended up lifting the ban on alcohol sale and putting it back under government control. Resulting private parties effectively held a nation together, and would best be described by this intriguing, if anonymous proclamation:

The First Manifesto of the Cocktail Nation

We, the Citizens of the Cocktail Nation, do hereby declare our independence from the dessicated horde of mummified uniformity—our freedom from an existence of abject swinglessness. We pledge to revolt against the void of dictated sobriety and to cultivate not riches but richness, swankness, suaveness and strangeness, with pleasure and boldness for all.

BE FABULOUS.

Vinyl beginnings

So the whole country was getting drunk, and music was becoming more and more available to the general public in the form of records. Now people no longer had to go to a piano bar to hear their favorite lounge singers. They could readily purchase choice tunes on vinyl and listen at their own leisure.

In the beginning, there was the Victriola. It played 78 rpm (revolutions per minute) records that lasted only for about four minutes. It could get quite tedious, having to switch records every so often.

Then Columbia introduced the 33 rpm microgroove LP (long play). And, to the delight of music lovers, the world of hi-fi (hi-fidelity) sound soon emerged. It would be from this time onwards that music lovers would be treated to sounds from faraway places, which would have people gathering around the stereo in any "swank" gathering.

Americans became fascinated with exotic Polynesian music, Cuban dance music and Brazilian jazz. GIs stationed in foreign countries turned on locals to new sounds. But it was post-World War II that people began to kick back and relax. They bought all gadgets for making life easier and more enjoyable—from television sets to new cars. it was a very liberating time to be alive.

Feel good

Which brings us back to the lounge. Take the martinis and cocktails of the '50s and '60s, bring in a record player, take the retro furniture out of the basement and invite the coolest people you know to a party. And... welcome to the lounge culture.

Lounge is about people getting together. It's about feel-good music, good company and tasteful surroundings—overall, a feast for the senses. In many respects not much has changed since those early times. The essence of lounge living persists. People still like to listen to music as a group. We still want to hang out in the coolest spots.

The next time you are out lounging, pay attention to the décor, food and drinks, as well as the tunes the DJ plays. Close your eyes; you might imagine yourself in a modern-day speakeasy. Here are a few lounges you can check out:

Tune in 8 to 10 every Friday night to WAVE 89.1's The Blue Room, for the sexiest lounge music this side of the metro!

Restaurant 12, Greenbelt, Fridays. DJs: Chip De La Calzada and Pornstar. VIP guest list in effect.

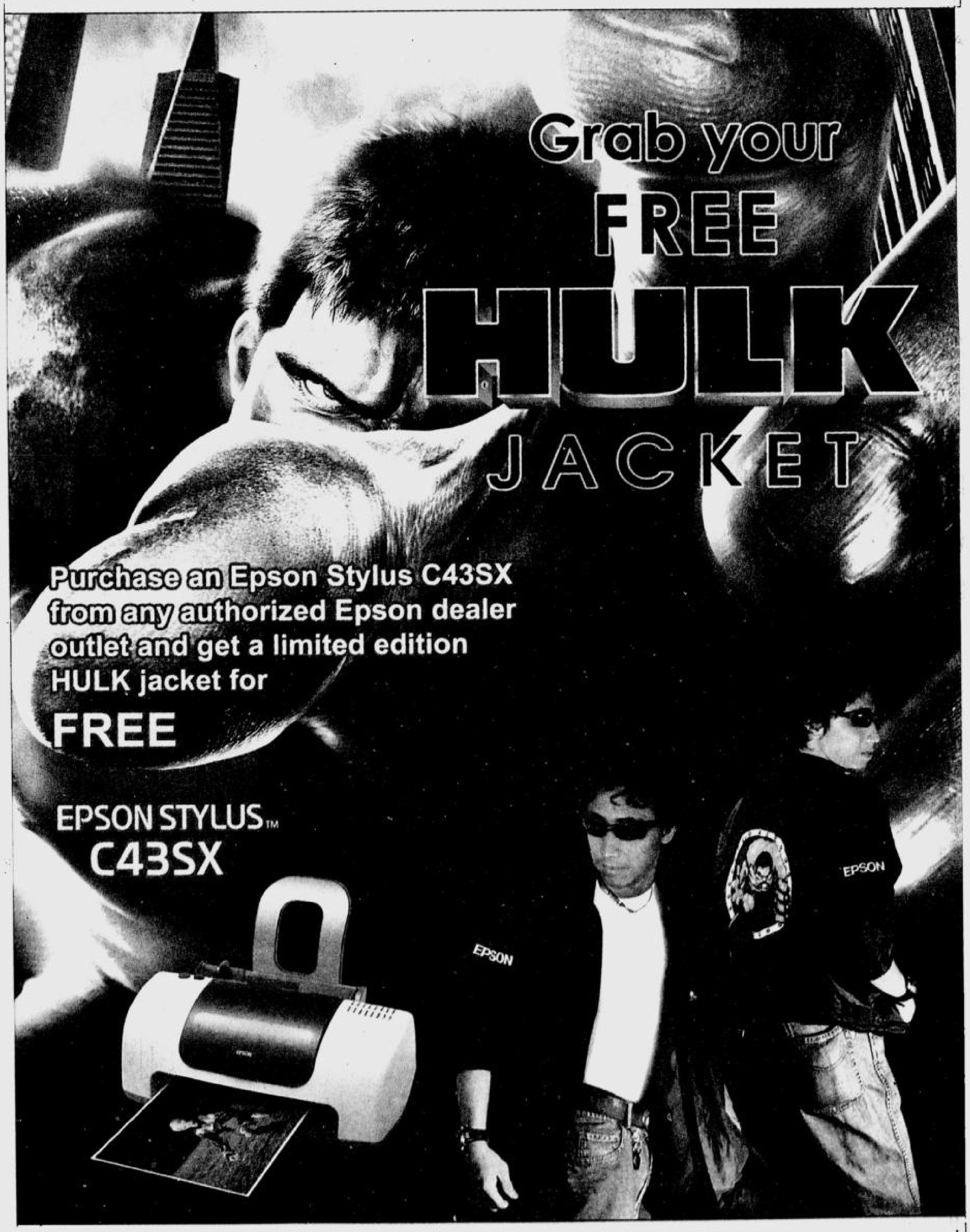
Nuvo, Greenbelt, Saturdays. DJ's: Wendell Garcia and Chip De La Calzada. Dress to impress.

Green Planet, Jupiter St. DJ: Benjo Marquez (San Francisco House).

> Or the birth of lounge culture, from the American Prohibition, through the "speak-easies" boom and the first Cocktail Nation

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

EPSON
THE POWER TO CREATE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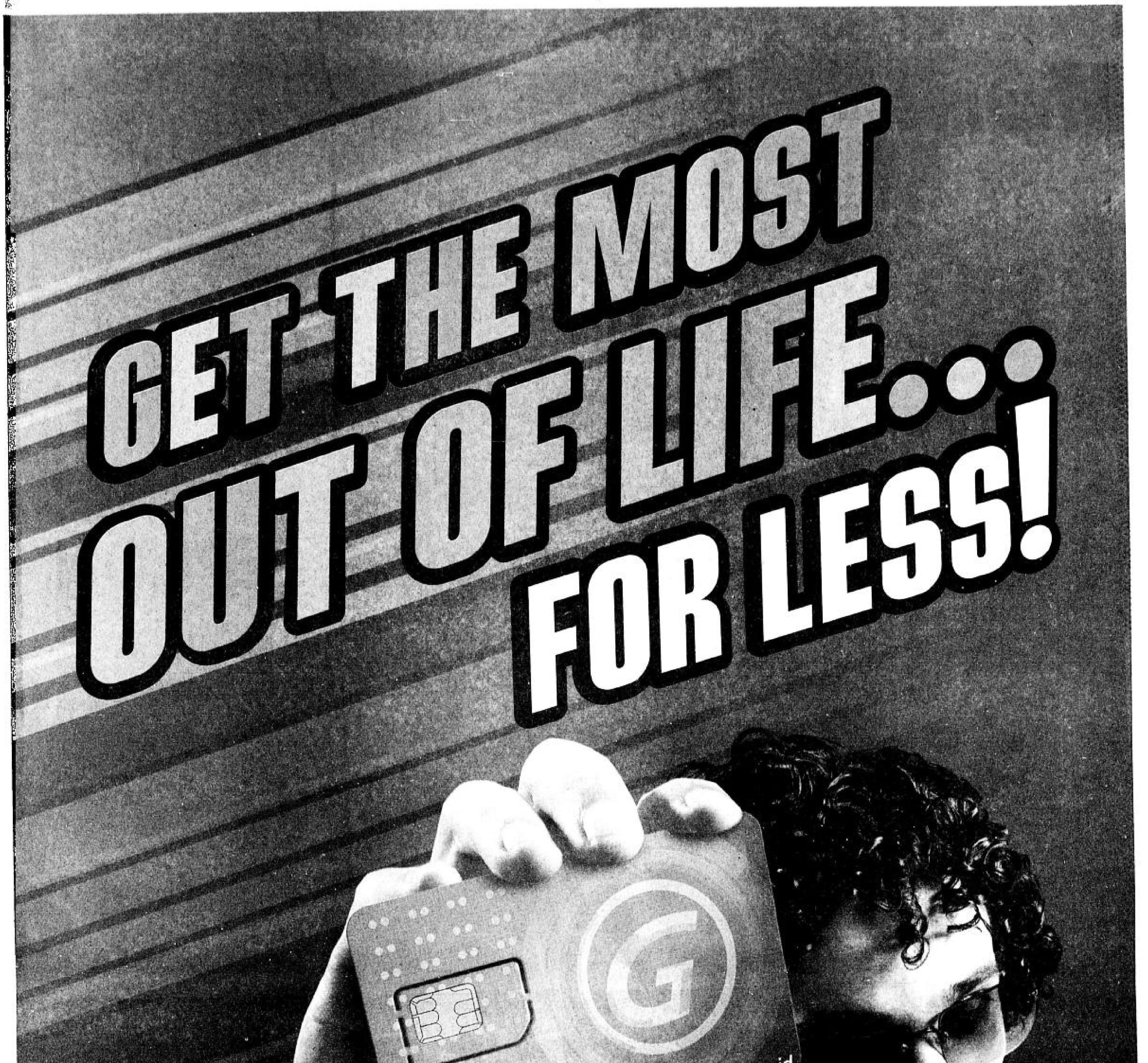
Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 1465, Series of 2003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Super SATURDAY Special

Secret getaways—no passport required!

In a world that continues to shrink with each Internet hit and mobile phone text, anyone who chooses to remain ignorant of world affairs risks being a global village idiot

By Natalia Diaz

EVERY once in a while, I get the itch.

The itch to escape, that is; the urge to step out of my comfort zone and travel far away to experience something new. It's the wanderlust that eventually seizes many a twenty-to-thirtysomething slave to capitalist gods, possibly fueled by the fear of one day realizing that life had whizzed by before I could conquer the world—because I was too busy working!

Thus, this resolute desire to flee, even for just a while, to immerse myself in a different scene and get a taste of the world out there. By "taste" I do not mean hamburgers and Starbucks coffee; and by "the world out there" I do not mean Disneyland. Beyond the shores of our archipelago, I know, is the rest of the planet, and it is filled not with McDonald's outlets and NBA-obsessed civilizations. I know it is a world that is culturally diverse and immensely sensual. And in a world that continues to shrink with each Internet hit and mobile phone text, I believe anyone who chooses to remain isolated and ignorant of world affairs risks being a global village idiot.

But I check my bank account and find a few more zeroes zapped from the total only because of last night's drinking spree. How could I possibly appease such a nagging wanderlust without enough *dinero*? Is it possible to get my taste of the world out there without leaving the city of Manila?

Actually, I do have some secret getaway schemes.

Take this one, where all I need is a little time in my hands and a lot of imagination. It gently, sometimes urgently, nudges my mind and takes me to exotic lands far, far away. I'm not talking of smokeable stuff. I refer to the Lonely Planet guide book, available in any bookstore. I can pick a country or city, open a page and stay there for hours. With some mental fine-tuning I would soon be gazing at the wild waves of the Pacific Ocean meeting the flowing waters of El Rio Maule in Central Chile; or looking out at wild giraffes frolicking in the plains while on a safari in Kenya; or feeling the pulse of the red earth in the Australian desert, with my ears at the base of the sacred aboriginal rock Uluru.

True, this may be nowhere near as exciting as being in these places for real. Still, just knowing they exist somewhere reachable floods my heart with the hope that someday I will find myself there, everywhere.

But since I cannot always be hanging out in a bookstore until the manager throws me out at closing time, I've made this short list of other routes to getting my cultural kicks without packing my bags.

'The Amazing Race'

I am absolutely addicted to this show. How can anyone not be, when it's basically a big scavenger hunt all over the world, where the participants get to bungee jump from high peaks in New Zealand, needle through the dizzying outdoor markets of Tunisia and take part in a masquerade ball in Venice, Italy?

I'm such an obsessed fan, that I've surfed the show's official website (www.cbs.com/primetime/amazing_race4), logged on to fan message boards—crammed with scores of Pinoy followers—and even written the producers to beg them not to cancel the show, when once rumors were rife that there wouldn't be a next season.

Yes, I do need to consider getting a life. Mine is a classic case of vicarious living. Of course, I must always suffer a tinge of jealousy that, while whole teams are flown from LA airport, I have to spend precious gas money just to drive up to LA Union; and while the contestants visited Beethoven's home in Vienna, the only actual Vienna that I could lay my eyes on was the sausage I had for breakfast.

Currently on its 4th season, "The Amazing Race" just gets better and better. It has a live feed over Studio 23 at 8 a.m. on Fridays, and a next-day replay at 7:30 p.m. It also broadcasts over AXN every Friday at 8 p.m., with replays all day Tuesday.

Who's da bossa?

Bossa nova, nova bossa, brasilectro, nubrasil... call it what you will. As long as the music has that sexy samba beat, you can't help but feel as though you were sipping *caipirinhas* on Ipanema Beach in Rio. I've found a really good selection of modern and classic bossa nova CDs at Music One. Topping my collection is Suba Sao Paulo Confessions, Bebel Gilberto's Tanto Tempo (I've played this a trillion times) and Ive Mendes, a super-sexy distant relative of Sergio Mendes, who dishes out ultra-seductive jazzy tunes in her album.

Of course, since there's still nothing like live music to shake your samba-booty, there's Guarana, a local bossa nova band whose name comes from a Brazilian fruit drink that gets you wired the whole night. It's probably the secret drink of all those dancers who can samba for days without sleep during Carnaval season!

Guarana plays every Tuesday in Cafe Havana Greenbelt and on certain Wednesdays at Monk's Dream at the Rockwell Power Plant.

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

Another local samba pack to catch is The Hairy Dawgs, whose funky beats just take over your body and soul! And another party to check out would be the Electrobrasil party at the V Bar on June 26. It promises to be a night fueled by compelling *batucada* beats.

Foreign film feast

It's always a refreshing experience to watch non-Hollywood films, those without actors that brandish paychecks big enough to purchase a small island in the Pacific. The scripts are not typical, the plots not too fast-paced or predictable and, therefore, happy endings are not always something to count on. What you can count on instead are breathtaking, unforgettable scenes.

Excellent foreign films prove that a huge budget, flashy costumes and ultra-glitzy special effects are not what make a good movie. A good story is. My current favorites are Mexico's "Y Tu Mama Tambien" starring the luscious duo of Gael Garcia Bernal and Diego Luna, playing hormone-charged teen-aged boys who experience sexual awakening while on a road trip to an imaginary beach; and the Spanish actress Maribel Verdu playing the seductive Luisa.

Still on Mexico, (and still dreaming of Gael Garcia Bernal): "El Crimen del Padre Amaro" is a dramatic, Latin American twist to "Thornbirds."

Other must-sees are Germany's "The Princess and the Warrior," Spain's "Habla con Ella (Talk to Her)," and of course, France's "Amelie," starring the *tres* adorable Audrey Tatou. Chinese director Wong Kar Wai's "In the Mood for Love" is yet another must-watch. And every film by Japanese director Akira Kurosawa, from "Ran" to "Dreams" to "Seven Samurai," should be a classic DVD collection staple.

There is a Spanish and Latin American film festival currently going on at Instituto Cervantes, featuring choice films every Saturday of June. Argentina's "Todas las Azafatas Van al Cielo (Every Stewardess Goes to Heaven)" is showing today, and Spain's "El Cielo Abierto (Ten Days without Love)" on June 28. For details, call 526-1448.

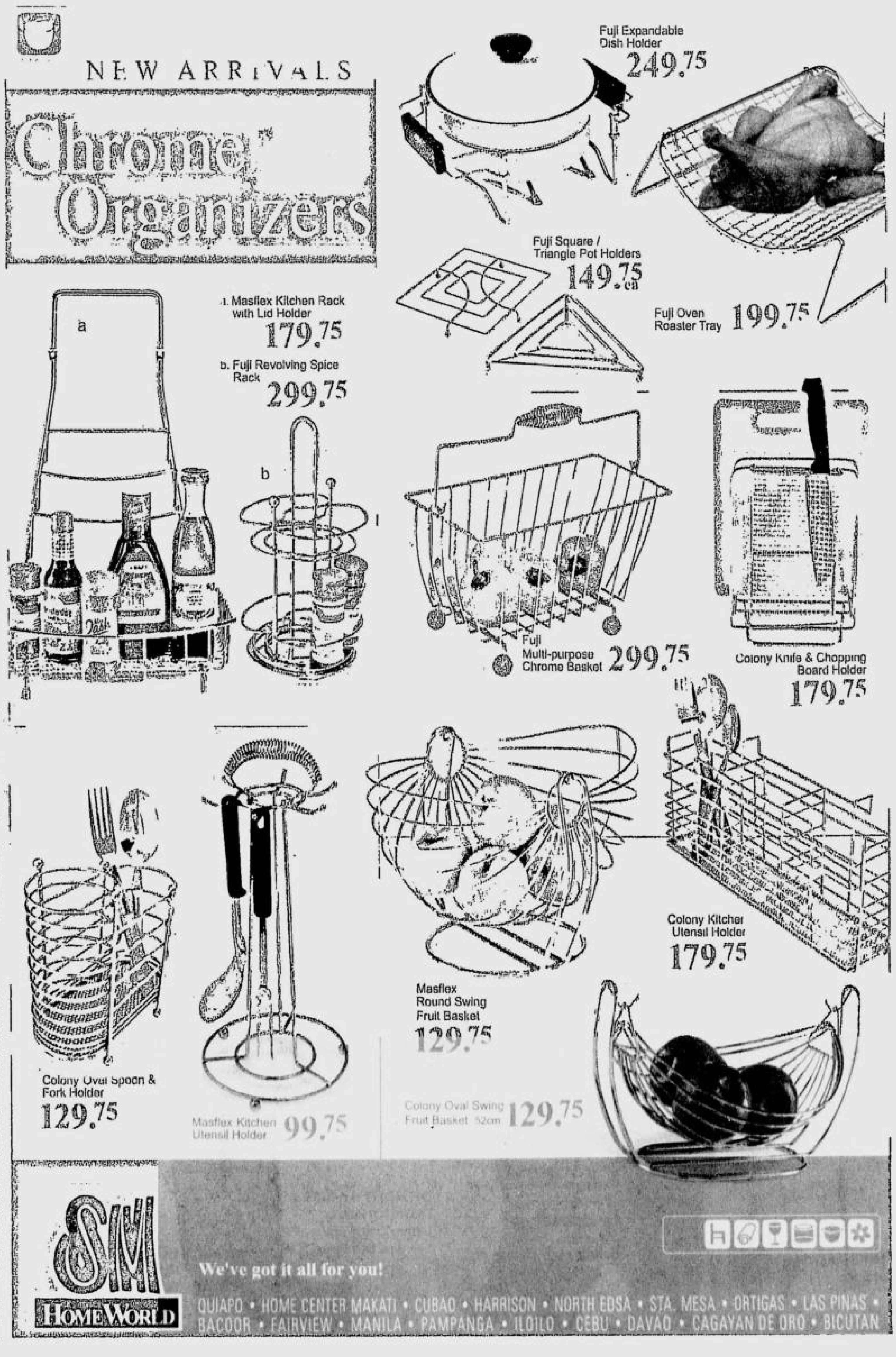
Mixed tongues

A foreigner once observed that Filipinos just loved talking about food. This made me a bit more observant during my next dinner with peers, the result being, I realized it was true! We do talk about food about 80 percent of the time—what new restaurants to visit, what new dish to try, what new potato chip variant is out in the market. I do believe this little quirk is something to be proud of, as it proves that Pinoys are in tune with one of the civilized world's oldest pleasures: eating.

Just take a look at the wide variety of cuisines represented in the metropolis—Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Italian, Thai, Persian, Spanish, Greek—you get the pic. What many don't know, though, is that one doesn't need to fork over a huge amount of money to fork in authentic foreign fare. A prime example would be my ultra-favorite Indian restaurant—New Bombay Canteen along Buendia Ave. in Makati, which has happily spun off a branch along H.V. de la Costa (the Buendia site will soon be closed). A couple hundred pesos would buy a genuine Indian feast. Their chapati is made from scratch, and their nan is, well, it's next to nan.

These little city getaways are only a speck of the real experience, of being anonymous in some exotic land thousands of miles away, but they're good starting points any way you look at it. Each one is the "x" that marks the beginning of an adventure, imagined or real. That I come from a different background and yet find some connection with other cultures makes me truly feel part of a global community. The more I immerse myself in different beats, tastes and languages, the more I appreciate my own identity and the beauty of my own culture. And the stronger my sense of belonging to the whole world, simply because I have a unique place in it.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO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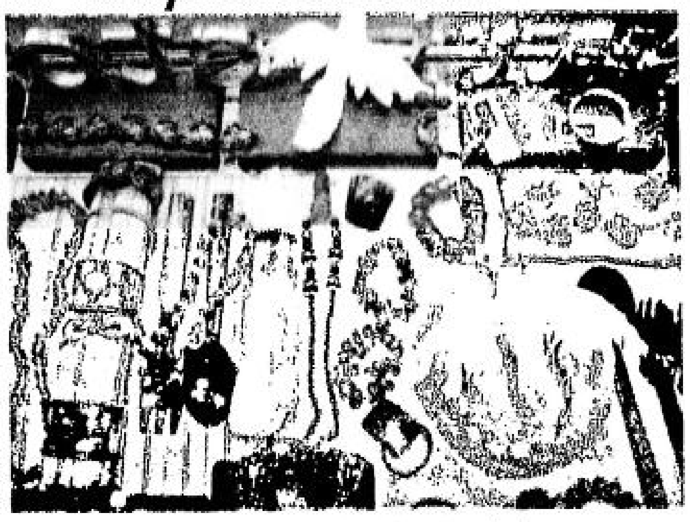
THE WINDOW OF OUR WORLD. Variety is the spice of Pinoys' lives


ACCESSORIZE IT! Tribal beads are hot, hot, hot!

BARONGS and other native hot stuff in hip packaging

A little bit of everything in Sari-Sari NYC

Text and photos by Tim Yap

Pinoy pride's spotlight is on Sari-Sari New York on 72nd and Columbus Ave. The minute my yellow cab stops in front of the store, I spot owner Marni Ocampo entertaining foreign customers and fixing her display window of various knick knacks from all over.

"*Naiiyak yung ibang* Pinoys when they come here," says Marni. A Regine Velasquez plays in the background. I go through some Putomayo CDs placed beside Sharon Cuneta's. The clothes in the racks are mostly linen, very upper west. Pina and shell accessories from the Philippines are a hit, too.

Matt Dillon is a regular, and so is Frances Mc Dormand.

Ethan Hawke and Uma Thurman drop by for a visit.

Pinoys are looking for Vittorio, Vic Barba's line. Before the store opened last year, a giant tarpoline of model Raya Mananquil as a diwata that was placed outside was stolen.

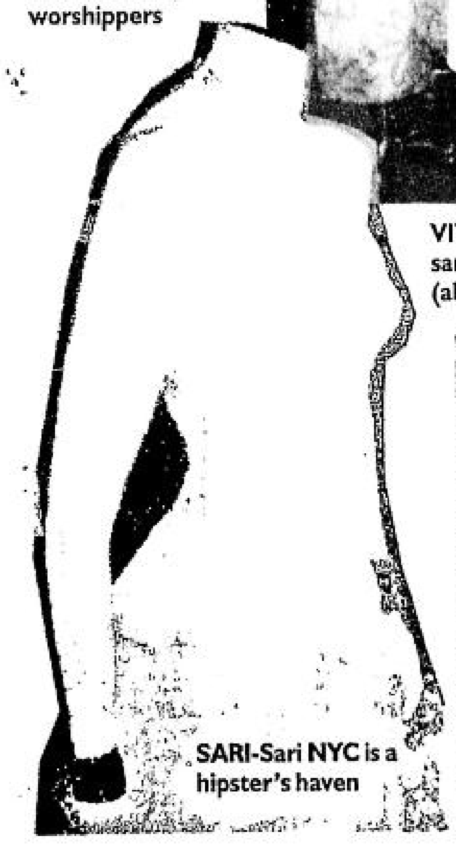
Americans dig Joyce Jimenez' Private Joyce line, but they think the sizes are a bit small. (What, Joyce, small?!)

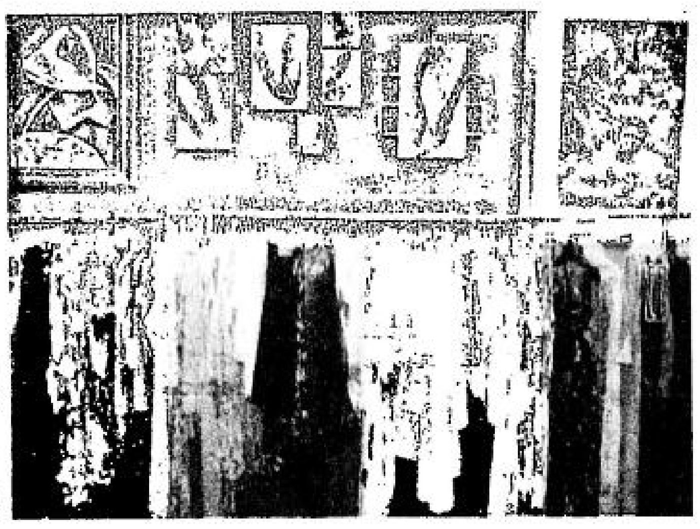
Filipino furniture and ethnic accessories are in hot demand now, says Marni, and more franchises all over the US are being planned.

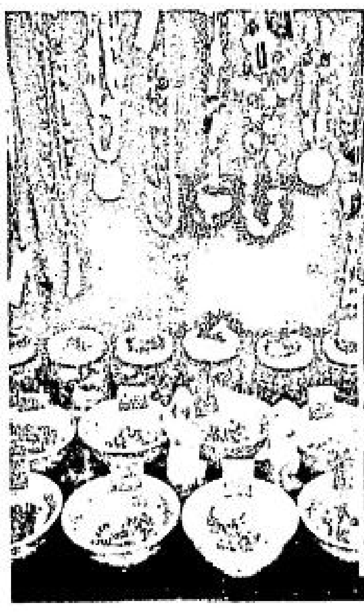
Could this be our first step onto world retail domination?

TEMPLE green top for serious city worshippers

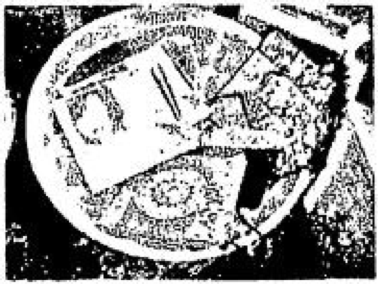
VIVA LA VIE BOHÉME. Sari-sari's ethnic summer collection (above and below).


SARI-Sari NYC is a hipster's haven

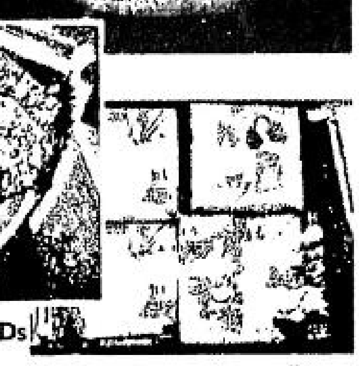



BAUBLES, bangles and beads

WHO'S that baby on the window?


MEGASTAR CDs

PINOY lounge in the house


DIWATA shirts are top sellers

CLOWNING AROUND. Martin Ocampo and Marissa Andal

THE WARM Pinoy staff

MARNI Ocampo, Sari-sari boss lady

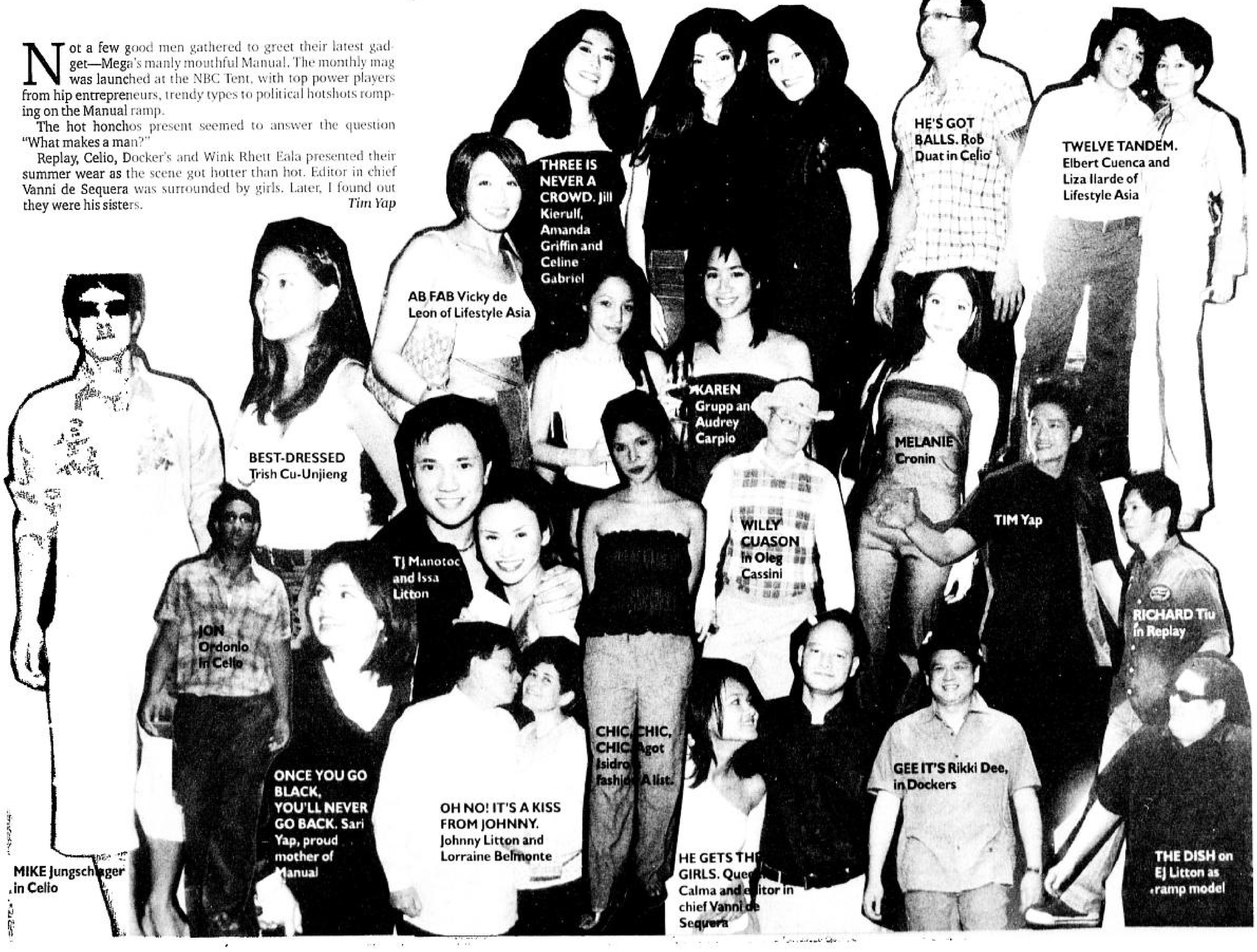
MANUAL'S GREAT ASSEMBLY

Not a few good men gathered to greet their latest gadget—Mega's manly mouthful Manual. The monthly mag was launched at the NBC Tent, with top power players from hip entrepreneurs, trendy types to political hotshots romping on the Manual ramp.

The hot honchos present seemed to answer the question "What makes a man?"

Replay, Celio, Docker's and Wink Rhett Eala presented their summer wear as the scene got hotter than hot. Editor in chief Vanni de Sequera was surrounded by girls. Later, I found out they were his sisters.

Tim Yap


THREE IS NEVER A CROWD. Jill Kierulf, Amanda Griffin and Celine Gabriel

HE'S GOT BALLS. Rob Duat in Celio

TWELVE TANDEM. Elbert Cuenca and Liza Ilarde of Lifestyle Asia

AB FAB Vicky de Leon of Lifestyle Asia

KAREN Grupp an Audrey Carpio

BEST-DRESSED Trish Cu-Unjieng

MELANIE Cronin

WILLY CUASON in Oleg Cassini

TIM Yap

TJ Manotoc and Issa Litton

JON Ordonio in Celio

RICHARD Tiu in Replay

CHIC, CHIC, CHIC. Agot Isidro fashion A list.

GEE IT'S Rikki Dee, in Dockers

ONCE YOU GO BLACK, YOU'LL NEVER GO BACK. Sari Yap, proud mother of Manual

OH NO! IT'S A KISS FROM JOHNNY. Johnny Litton and Lorraine Belmonte

HE GETS THE GIRLS. Queen Calma and editor in chief Vanni de Sequera

MIKE Jungschlager in Celio

THE DISH on EJ Litton as ramp model

Things you didn't know about your favorite movies

Compiled By Pam Pastor

THERE is more to love about your favorite movies that you probably haven't heard before. Juicy little pieces of trivia, for instance.

Sit back, relax and enjoy.

Could-have-beens

You probably can't imagine anyone else playing your favorite big-screen characters. But some actors whose performances turned ordinary movies into giant hits weren't even the first choices for the roles they played. Thank goodness for Hollywood glitch. Can you imagine anyone else playing Neo?

The title role for Jerry Maguire was originally written for Tom Hanks.

Molly Ringwald auditioned for the lead part in Ghost, but it went to Demi Moore. Ironically, the character's name ended up being Molly.

The people behind American Pie offered Alyson Hannigan the role of Heather but she asked to play Michelle after reading the script.

Daniel Day-Lewis turned down the role of Aragorn in Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring.

LOTR heartthrob Orlando Bloom auditioned for the part of Faramir. He was called back and cast instead as Legolas.

Julia Stiles actually auditioned to play Bianca Stratford in 10 Things I Hate About You.

Both Nicolas Cage and John Malkovich were offered the role of the Green Goblin for Spiderman the movie.

Will Smith was approached to play Neo but he turned it down in order to make Wild Wild West in 1999.

Ewan McGregor was offered the part of Neo, too, but he turned it down. Val Kilmer was also considered to play Morpheus.

The studios wanted Matthew McConaughey to play Jack in Titanic but director James Cameron insisted on Leonardo DiCaprio. The role of Rose was first offered to Gwyneth Paltrow.

Steven Spielberg was offered the directing job for Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone. But he wanted to cast Haley Joel Osment as Harry and couldn't agree with JK Rowling on an all-British cast.

One couldn't help but wonder how these movies would have turned out if the could-have-beens had taken the landmark slots.

Cameo

Cameos are to movies as candy sprinkles are to ice cream cones. They add color and extra doses of flavor.

The foot fetishist who licks Beth's toes on the bus in Road Trip is actually director Todd Phillips.

In the original draft of Harry Potter: The Sorcerer's Stone, Drew Barrymore, a self-proclaimed Harry Potter fan, had a cameo. Rosie O'Donnell and Robin Williams are just two of the many celebrities who had asked for—and didn't get—roles in the movie, even without pay.

Director Peter Jackson's children appear as "cute Rohan refugee children" in Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers.

Stan Lee, creator of Spider-Man, appears in the scene at the World Unity Festival where the Green Goblin attacks the balcony.

Director Richard Donner was one of the sheriffs on the quads as the Goonies exit the cave with the ship. He's the one with the gray hair.

Shooting sidelights

The 100 Agent Smiths battle in The Matrix Reloaded took 27 days to shoot.

The Matrix Reloaded promotional material was in such high demand that distributors were worried about it being stolen. As a preventive measure, standees and banners were sent out using "Caddyshack 2" and "The Replacements" as code names. Because of the names, people from several cinemas were confused and thought they had not received the material—which was why some displays didn't come out until the last minute.

In Goonies, the cast was not allowed to see the pirate ship before the scene was shot. When the kids finally saw it during the filming, some of them exclaimed, "Holy sh*t!" The scene had to be re-shot without them cursing.

In Jurassic Park, the glass of water sitting on the dashboard of the Ford Explorer was made to ripple by using a guitar string which had been attached to the underside of the dashboard under the glass.

Clueless had a 40-day shooting schedule.

The scene in which Jerry Maguire and little Ray are talking in the living room for the first time was completely ad-libbed. Director Cameron Crowe wanted to create genuine rapport between the two and accomplished this by not having a written dialogue for that particular scene.

It took seven hours to get Fat Bastard into his suit in Austin Powers 2: The Spy Who Shagged Me.

In Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers, the Orc battle cries for the Helm's Deep battle sequence were provided by a stadium of 25,000 cricket fans. They screamed the war chants which were spelled out on the Diamond Vision screen. Director Peter Jackson was leading the crowd.

Creation of the Spider-Man costumes cost a lot of money, up to $100,000 each. Four were stolen from the set in early April of 2001. Columbia Pictures posted a $25,000 reward for their return but they were never seen again.

Elsewhere in the planet

When Ghost was shown at cinemas in Monterrey, Mexico, women in the audience were given envelopes, on which were written: "*Solo para mujeres*" (for women only). They contained tissue paper.

The movie is known as "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" all over the world, except in the United States. And so every scene in which the Philosopher's Stone was mentioned was filmed twice, once with the actors saying "Philosopher's" and once with the actors saying "Sorcerer's."

"Shag" is far less offensive in the United States than in other English-speaking countries. Singapore forced a title change from Austin Powers 2: The Spy Who Shagged Me to "The Spy Who Shioked Me." ("Shioked" means "treated nicely.")

Records (or at least one)

The Blair Witch Project held the record for the highest-grossing independent movie of all time until October 2002, when it was surpassed by My Big Fat Greek Wedding.

Other tidbits

Bridget Jones's Diary director Sharon Maguire was the real-life inspiration for the character of Shazza in the novel. She's a friend of Helen Fielding's, writer of the three Bridget Jones books. Her name appears on the acknowledgements page of the book.

According to some crew members, Keanu Reeves was really vomiting when his character Neo leaves The Matrix for the first time. They said it was apparently because of a chicken pot pie he ate.

During the filming of Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring, Liv Tyler left her prosthetic ears on the dashboard of her car. When she returned, they had melted.

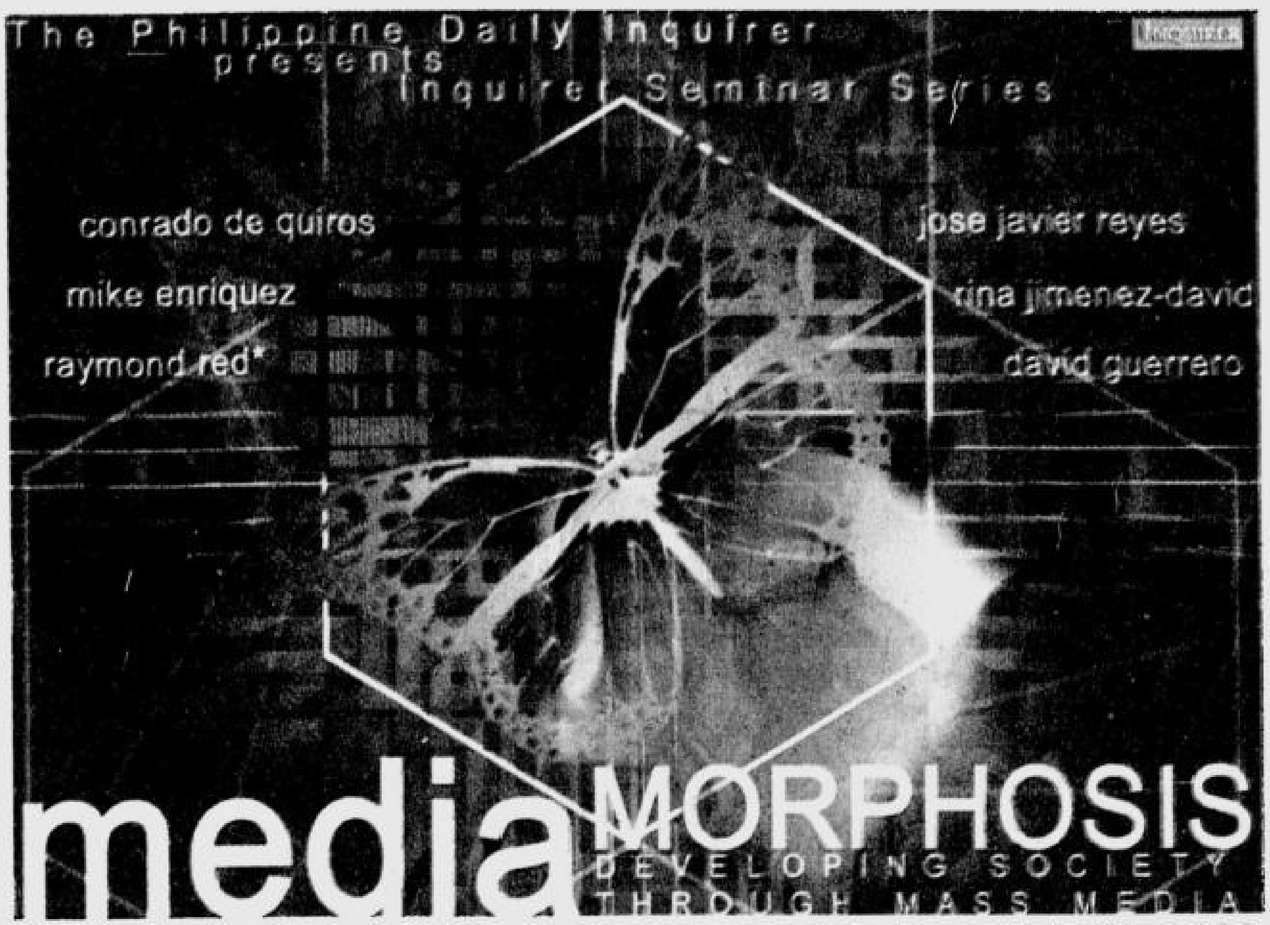
Reese Witherspoon's character wears 40 different hairstyles in Legally Blonde. She got to keep all the clothes she wore here—it was in her contract.

In the first Austin Powers movie, Elizabeth Hurley and Mimi Rogers asked to keep their tight leather outfits, and they were allowed to.

Mike Myers' wife suggested he dance in Austin Powers during the credits because he dances around his own house in the buff. It became a stamp of the three movies. And in the second one, he really does dance naked.

When submitting the script of American Pie to studios, screenwriter Adam Herz called it, "Untitled Teenage Sex Comedy That Can Be Made For Under $10 Million That Most Readers Will Probably Hate But I Think You Will Love." It was changed to "East Great Falls High" then "Great Falls," and finally, "American Pie."

When the trailer of Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring was released on the Internet on April 7, 2001, it was downloaded 1.6 million times in the first 24 hours.



*invited

8am to 5pm. July 19, 2003
[Registration starts at 7am]
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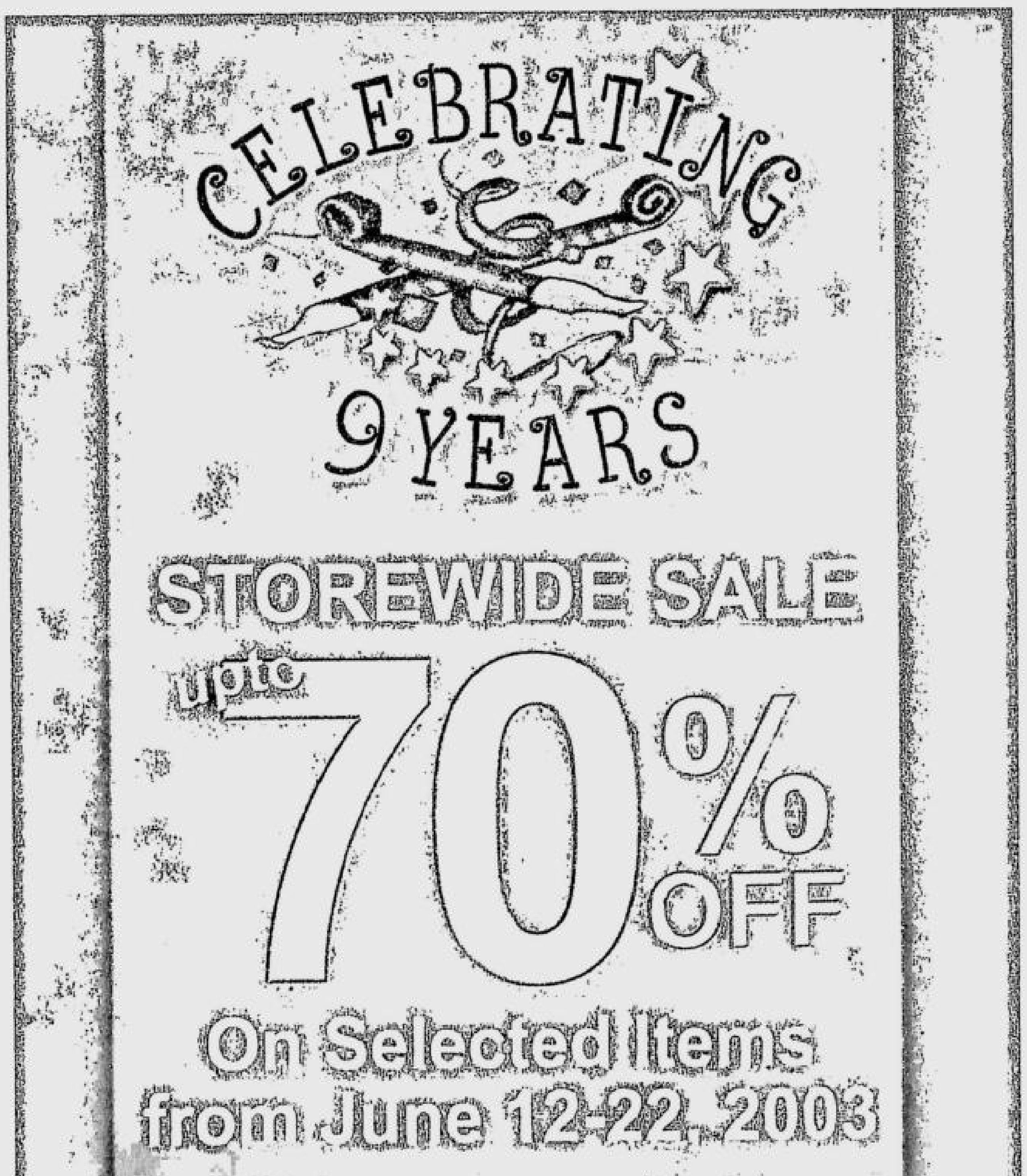
[2] Submit your application form through any of the means specified in the instructions.
[3] Pay the registration fee: 200 as an early bird discount if paid ON or BEFORE July 4, 2003, and 250 if paid ON July 19, 2003. This applies for applicants in the Metro Manila Area Only. Details of HOW, WHERE, and WHEN applicants may pay the registration fee will follow upon receipt of the application form.
[4] FOR THOSE OUTSIDE THE METRO MANILA AREA, the registration fee will still be 200 to be paid on July 19, 2003 provided that the application form is submitted ON OR BEFORE July 4, 2003.



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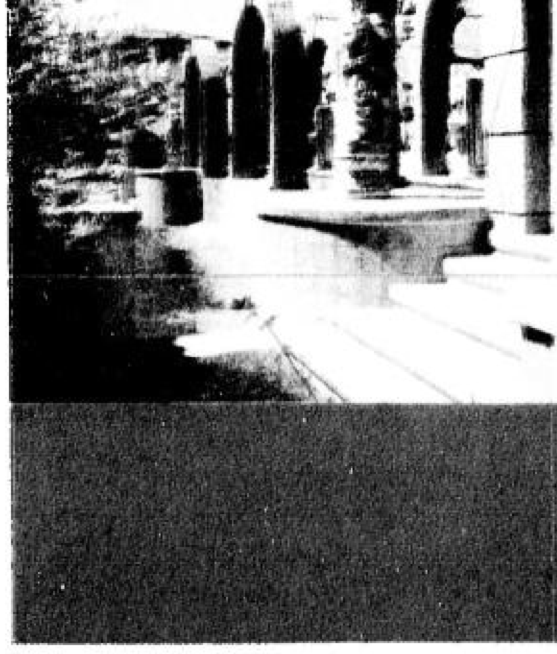

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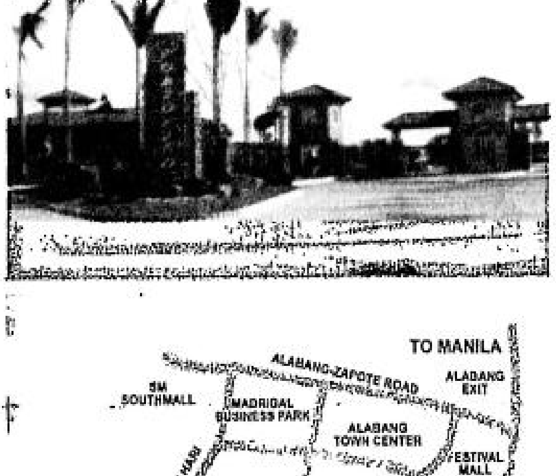

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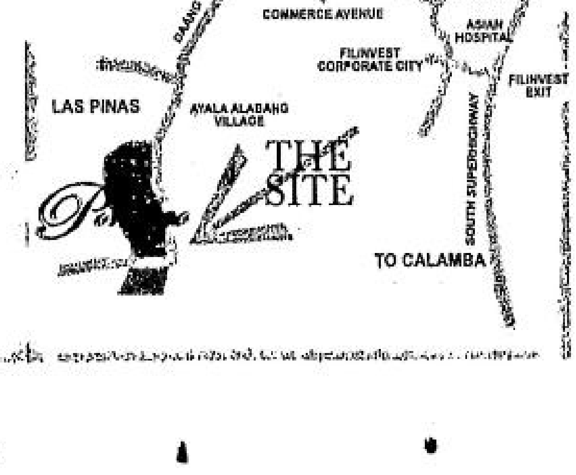
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